Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-027 *8 February 1990*

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Draft Document for Cartagena Summit Obtained

PA0702192790 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] This station has obtained access to the draft of the document that the U.S., Colombian, Peruvian, and Bolivian presidents will sign in Cartagena next week during the antidrug summit. Four countries participated in the preparatory meeting for the summit in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in January.

Although the 13-page document reiterates many of the points on drug trafficking already outlined in several international agreements, it nevertheless includes new strategies in the struggle against this world scourge. The document deals with economics, diplomatic and public opinion initiatives, and the banning of illegal drugs; that is to say, actions to control the demand, production, and marketing of chemical substances, and the coordination of police, military, fiscal, and judicial matters.

The U.S. Government will pledge to ask Congress to authorize new funds for the program, which will be implemented in the 1991-1994 fiscal years. The U.S. will also pledge to help Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru develop foreign trade and investment in these three countries, encourage nontraditional exports, and reinforce the productive infrastructure.

The three Andean countries will negotiate with the United States to obtain the support of multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank and the IMF, as well as other financial organizations, to implement these programs. The United States is willing to support the balance of payments by financing imports and helping defray the interest payments on the foreign debt of these countries. President Bush will agree to encourage private investment in those countries where conditions are adequate.

On the banning of illegal drugs, Presidents Alan Garcia of Peru, Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia, George Bush of the United States, and Virgilio Barco of Colombia will agree to share the earnings resulting from confiscation and seizure of illegal properties in any of the four countries. The United States will agree to transfer to the cooperating country, to the extent that U.S. law allows, the property and money confiscated from drug traffickers.

The document of understanding says that drug trafficking is essentially a police matter but that, in view of the magnitude of the problem, the armed forces of each of the countries will participate in the antidrug struggle in their territories and reach bilateral or multilateral agreements with the armed forces of other countries for this purpose. The countries will agree to control the chemical substances used to process cocaine, including those that have already entered, whether legally or illegally, any of the countries.

The participants will also agree to take strict control measures on the manufacture of arms and explosives, as well as on the use of airplanes and ships that transport drugs. President Bush will agree to prevent the export of arms for drug traffickers of these countries.

Although extradition is not specifically mentioned in the document, the sides acknowledge the importance of international cooperation in strengthening the administration of justice and improving legal procedures against drug trafficking. The document also points to future international summits, such as the economic summit to be held in Houston this year. The United States, which will host this meeting, will pledge to encourage industrialized countries to pay more attention to drug trafficking.

A special session will be held at the United Nations 20-23 February to reiterate the need to enforce the UN conventions against drug trafficking as soon as possible. Another such meeting is scheduled for London in April. The document stipulates that a top-level followup meeting to discuss the progress of the agreement signed in Cartagena will be held within six months.

In conclusion, the document states that Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and the United States will convene an international conference to be held in 1991 to discuss the control of illegal drugs.

Cuba

State Reportedly Watchful of 'Contamination'

PA0802020590 Paris AFP in Spanish 2320 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Report by Bertra D. Rosenthal]

[Text] Havana, 7 Feb (AFP)—Observers in the Cuban capital have indicated that the 100-year-old University of Havana seems to be under the political eye of the government, which apprehensive about "perestroyka-like" contamination. The sources agree that in the student world, signs of defiance [signos contestatarios] are multiplying, but are not massive.

To date, the authorities have handled the budding defiance with some prudence, perhaps avoiding the creation of a climate that would lead to a "witch hunt," which would be harmful to the country's intellectual and scientific future. Nevertheless, according to some opinions at the university, some leaders might believe that in the university departments there are possible "pockets of subversion" and recommend that any expression of opposition be nipped in the bud.

In a speech in December—according to various sources, the video of the speech was only shown to Communist Party militants—President Fidel Castro mentioned problems in the History, Philosophy, and Arts and Letters Departments, as well as difficultis with the Cuban scholarship students who study in the USSR and return to Cuba after graduation.

The framework of "perestroyka" under which the scholarship students studied in the USSR, especially the economy, is not in line with the orientation of Cuban policy. There have been cases cited involving scholarship students who obtain degrees from Soviet academies and are doubted when they return.

At least two students from the Mathematics Department were arrested at the beginning of the year. A larger group was more recently arrested at the Jose Antonio Echeverria Higher Polytechnical Institute, ISPJAE, which trains engineers and architects, among others.

According to sources, defiant graffiti frequently appears on the university walls. Before he was arrested, a student was reportedly reading for nearly two hours under a sign with an anti-Castro caption that he had hung at the university library.

In the human sciences field, there are currently students in Cuba who are fearful of a future in which their diplomas will also be questionable. In this regard, there is some increasing uncertainty about the collapse of the European communist world, the ideology and books of which served as a foundation for Cuban teaching at all levels for many years. The books suddenly do not have satisfactory theoretical answers to questions about the international communist movement and the evolution of socialist societies. The truths of just yesterday are no longer those of today. The confusion is even more evident, if possible, in the Philosophy Department, where the "scientific communism" course was, according to students, not concluded this year.

In any case, the sources indicate, student defiance continues to exist among a very small minority, and the basic concern of the students centers around their professional future. Like the rest of the population, the students also assimilate the difficulties in their daily lives and accept the calls to mobilize in defense of their country.

Thousands of them marched in Havana on 28 January, birthday of Jose Marti, national champion of Cuban independence. Carrying torches, they gathered around Castro in an evening demonstration with a heavy "anti-Yankee" flavor.

According to observers, Cuban education will undoubtedly be reoriented toward the in-depth study of Marti's thought. Carlos Aldana, a member of the Communist Party Secretariat, stressed that the study of Marti's thought is not basic in Cuban higher education and is virtually absent from programs to train party cadres.

In a seminar at the end of January, Aldana criticized both defects as "inconsistent omissions."

Social Democratic Party Supports Democratization

FL0802014790 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0010 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Caracas, 7 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Social Democratic Party (Pascu), illegal in Cuba, issued a statement in Caracas today in which it asked the progressive sectors to support the democratization of the Castro regime.

Pascu asked all Socialist International member parties and progressive sectors in America and the world to support a political opening in Cuba and to begin a gradual democratization of the Cuban revolution.

This is the only way to strengthen socialism and close the path to the maneuvers being made by neofascist forces trying to unleash chaos and violence in Jose Marti's fatherland, said the document.

It states that the only viable solution and truly revolutionary alternative the Cuban leadership has is political opening, the creation of a type of democratic freedom from which constructive and revolutionary criticism can make the economy more dynamic and pluralize the political direction.

Pascu rejected the creation of a tropical perestroyka and indicated that Cuban socialism can only be strengthened through political pluralism and the integration of socialist and revolutionary forces in a popular front together with the Communist Party of Cuba.

It added that this union should deal with economic rationalization, reestablish national unity, and renew the enthusiasm all Cubans had during the early years of the revolution.

Vladimir Ramirez, Pascu representative abroad, reported that the party has asked for the support of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and of the ruling Democratic Action and the Movement to Socialism.

He said Pascu has a political commitment that is different from the right-wing exiled Cubans and denied it is linked with the Cuban counterrevolution based in the United States.

He criticized the U.S. policy of intervention, especially its TV Marti project, which was created to attack the Castro regime. What happens in Cuba concerns Cubans and should be solved by Cubans, he said.

He asserted Pascu is waiting for a response from Cuban President Fidel Castro on the legalization of the party. He added that the party would be headed by Roberto Luque Escalona, who actively participated in the 26 July Movement that led to the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

UNITA Attacks on Cubans To Be Addressed

FL0802040890 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0332 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Representatives from Cuba, Angola, South Africa, the United States, and the Soviet Union will meet in Luanda at the end of the month to focus on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] attacks on our country's internationalist troops. The Cuban and Angolan Governments expect the United States and South Africa to guarantee that the antigovernment group will not resume its attacks on Cuban combatants, said Manuel Pedro Pacavira, Luanda ambassador to the United Nations.

Last month, our country suspended the withdrawal of its soldiers from Angolan territory after UNITA killed four Cuban internationalists who were guarding a water purification plant in the African country. Therefore, the Angolan representative to the United Nations noted that, with the assurance that the attacks will end, the United States and South Africa are the ones that will make the resumption of the Cubans' withdrawal possible, in accordance with the timetable approved by the tripartite meeting.

Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunem denied that Cuban troops are moving toward Mavinga to reinforce the Army in their fighting against UNITA. Speaking to the press, Van Dunem denied reports made by Jeremias Chitunda, deputy chief of the antigovernment organization, who accused our internationalists of going to the strategic municipality recovered by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, FAPLA. With Chitunda's slanderous remarks, they intend to justify the Yankee military support to UNITA, which refuses to adhere to the peace efforts aimed at the solution of the internal conflict in the African country, said the Angolan foreign minister.

After FAPLA's triumph in Mavinga, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos urged UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi to accept the government's conditions for a cease-fire.

Culture Minister Meets With Venezuelan President

FL0702040990 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0343 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos has talked with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez about bilateral relations and the meetings with culture ministers in Brazil and Argentina. Hart, who left Caracas for this capital, also visited Argentina and Ecuador, where he met with Presidents Carlos Saul Menem and Rodrigo Borja, respectively.

During his stay in the Venezuelan capital, the Cuban minister gave a lecture to some 2,000 students, scholars, and intellectuals at the Central University of Venezuela's amphitheater. Hart explained the origins of anti-imperialist thought in Cuba and the relationship between Marxism-Leninism and Marti's thought. He reflected on the existence of one party in our country and the contributions made by its first secretary, Fidel Castro.

ANPP Secretary, Delegation Leave for Libya

FL0802002790 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0010 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] A National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] delegation left today for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the invitation of this country's General People's Congress. The group is headed by ANPP Secretary Ernesto Suarez Mendez.

Officials on Joint Soviet Health Agreement

FL0702035690 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Interview with Soviet First Deputy Health Minister Igor Denisov and Vice Public Health Minister Victor Antelo Public Health Minister by Daisy Gomez; held in Moscow "recently"—recorded]

[Text] [Gomez] Denisov, what are the main areas of the Soviet public health that will benefit from this agreement?

[Denisov, in Russian with superimposed Spanish translation] This agreement will mean progress in very important matters, such as the cure for vitiligo. Cuban doctors have attained outstanding results on this at an international level. It will also allow the generalized use of the skin graft growth factor by Soviet doctors. This skin

growth factor was used successfully in the treatment of victims of the [name indistinct] railroad accident.

The agreement signed with Cuba will also give us access to some biological products, the vaccine for the treatment of hepatitis type B, among others. The agreement also provides for the supply of Cuban medical equipment. For example, at the initiative of Comrade Fidel, ultramicroanalytic system equipment is being used in areas affected by the Chernobyl accident for the study and monitoring of the children born in those areas after the explosion. This shows the development potential the Soviet-Cuban cooperation has in this sphere.

I believe these ties should set an example for relations among socialist countries, where the results obtained by one quickly turn into the patrimony of others.

[Gomez] Comrade Jorge Antelo, every cooperation agreement brings advantages to the two sides. How does Cuba benefit from the signing of this agreement with the Soviet Union?

[Antelo] It is stipulated that the Soviet Union will send Cuba 50 percent of the total amount of the agreement in goods listed by Cuba for its next year's supply. Among these goods are medicines and some raw materials which Cuba usually buys from the Soviet Union. This agreement will also benefit public health. It also includes other goods necessary for the national economy.

Approval of CPSU Congress Platform Noted

FL0702162590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1450 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee has ratified the platform for the party's 28th congress. Although there were a few changes in its formulations, the document essentially repeats the main initial proposals presented to the plenary session by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. The platform for the 28th CPSU Congress includes the repeal of Article 6 of the Constitution, which grants the CPSU the leading role in Soviet society. The document also includes the granting of greater autonomy to base-level republican organizations, acceptance of factions within the party, and transition to a multiparty system in the country.

Another of the changes included in the platform is replacing the post of CPSU general secretary with that of president of the organization. The document, presented by the drafting commission, was approved by a majority. Boris Yeltsin, known for opposing Gorbachev, was the only one to vote against the platform; there was one abstention.

*Changes in GDR, Czechoslovakia Viewed

90EM0080A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 15 Dec 89 pp 72-74

[Article by Elsa Claro: "The Stages of the Crisis"]

[Text] It has taken just six weeks for broad and deep change to take place in the GDR, where people and events are moving at a dizzying pace. The unexpected winds are blowing the signals around like old weather vanes, and in light of the most recent developments in the Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), the party may not return to its original course.

In fact, since last 18 October, when the inexorable hands of the clock began to move, the changes that have taken place in the government and party apparatus have put the most experienced event watchers to the test. I think that relating these developments is not as necessary as trying to explain them, at least the most prominent ones.

Significant developments arose from the hasty congress. Both the basic program drafted by an ad hoc committee and the discussions, as well as the initial remarks made by Prime Minister Hans Modrow and new party president Gregor Gysi, point toward striking changes that are not exactly in line with what has so far been the foundation underlying the emergence of the GDR.

According to Gysi, the aim is to develop a system that is far removed from what he describes as Stalinist socialism, but one that is not "pure capitalism," either. The 41-year-old attorney, whose fame is associated with his defense of dissidents before the recent events, seems to want a hybrid Social Democratic model.

That is the trend, in theory at least. It is only fair to say, though, that we will have to wait and see how these initial ideas mesh with long-range goals when the party's new platform is made public.

Learning From the FRG

Several aspects of Gysi's initial political discourse are noteworthy, however, as he feels that a total break is needed with the centralized administrative system that has proven ineffective there and elsewhere. I admit that the issue can be debated.

But when he referred to a third way, which is neither socialism nor "pure capitalism," he acknowledged that something can be learned from the traditions of economic, political, and cultural freedom in countries like the Federal Republic of Germany.

With respect to the neighboring country and the much discussed idea of reunification, both the basic document that the closed-door meeting discussed for 18 straight hours and subsequent references indicate that there is agreement on the establishment of "confederated structures" between the GDR and the FRG. Many observers have already associated them with the proposals that FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl made in a 10-point plan for unification.

The truth is that for many reasons, the landscape looks quite confused, and the forces struggling today amid the crisis lack an overview. The very ideas that have been outlined have no complement. When taken literally, they

herald nothing promising. At the same time, it is ambiguous to advocate close ties with the FRG in various areas while claiming that the concept of reunification is "obsolete." That possibility has never been as strong in the last 40 years as it is now. Although the FRG has always wanted reunification, its efforts had never been intense or specific until now. Nor had they aroused the sort of wave of commentary and even fear that we are seeing now. Forecasts range from a German union by mutual consent to an absorption by the capitalist side. It should be noted that if the GDR ceases to be socialist, it makes no sense to have two German states of a similar or identical political nature.

Passing Comments

Everything has a beginning; that much is undeniable. When the leadership of the SED lost its active link with the masses, their needs were forgotten, and the contact that enabled it to gauge the social climate disappeared.

People are correct to protest the country's festering problems, which are unjustifiable for a Communist Party. Now, I think that at a certain point, the activity of the masses outstripped their own state. Although it is true that the protests were one of a kind since they were conducted outside working hours, productivity indices were adversely affected in November.

This is insignificant if we bear in mind the prevailing ferment that caused the successive resignations of the Central Committee, the Politburo, and the head of government. Notwithstanding the discipline that was shown, incidents that forced the defense and security ministers to call for order have taken place over the past week. Modrow did the same, urging calm. What happened was that police offices were assigned with preventing, according to testimony, the destruction of documents proving the charges of embezzlement against high-level officials, who are, moreover, in jail or being tried.

The protesters were not peaceful in all cases. On the contrary, there were reports of attacks on military personnel or their families, and actions against party activists in their own workplaces or homes.

Such incidents point to tragic times ahead if they are not dealt with in time. I think that by saying that it is "to blame" on behalf of its former leaders, the SED has polarized the situation and caused incidents such as these. Doubts and fears have begun to surface now that the country has learned, moreover, that neo-Nazi activity has been on the rise, as social circles acknowledge. Tragic times could lie ahead if underground work is done among stirred-up masses.

The parties—Liberal Democratic, Peasants, National Democratic, and Christian-Democratic Union—have distanced themselves significantly from the communist group. They are leaning toward the other groups that have arisen in the heat of events and with which they held their first round-table session, which was supposed to suggest changes in the Constitution (a decision was made to redraft it altogether) and the new election laws, and make other recommendations to the government.

The communists, therefore, are at a disadvantage, because their allies, having drifted away, have left them with all of the blame for what has happened. The force that has governed the country for the past four decades has very little chance of obtaining a majority in the election that is scheduled for 5 May 1990. It stands to reason, then, that at best, we will see a coalition government emerge. It would not be surprising to see the Marxists in particular banished, because at the present juncture, ideas that are far removed from this ideology, not a valiant defense of it, seem to have prevailed.

The Baby and the Bath Water

As Engels said about the philosopher Hegel and his concept of the dialectic, they threw the baby out with the bath water. This is why I said before that pressures have outstripped themselves and that the people who were supposed to keep the matter under control drifted in other directions instead of repairing what was in place. Everything will be very difficult henceforth, and a movement to regain ground is extremely unlikely.

It would seem that this is a trap into which other nations have fallen as well. We have seen something similar in Czechoslovakia, which has its own specific features and whose course is in a way even more violent, although its direction is very much like that of other East European nations.

Is this feeling of guilt inordinate, or have former Social Democrats disguised themselves as communists?

These unique and momentous developments raise many questions. The one above is a good example. They begin multiplying, however, if we look at neighboring Czechoslovakia. As was to be expected after what happened in the GDR, events were precipitated in Prague, so much so that they seem to have caught the opponents of the regime off guard.

The best known opponents, as well as others who emerged during this rapid course of events, lacked a program of action. They put together a program in midstream and to the extent that they were given room to make headway.

Here too, events were marked by haste. There was a shift from one government to another in just a few days. Ladislav Adamec had to resign as well, claiming that he could not work under constant pressure and amid strikes. The cabinet that he formed was not to the liking of the protesters because it included a majority of communist ministers. Marian Calfa then replaced Adamec as head of government, and he was flanked by 11 ministers of various persuasions and nine communists.

Vaclav Havel, the playwright, who was also one of the framers of the so-called Charter 77, has opted for politics and is one of the candidates for president, as Gustav Husak resigned as soon as he had approved the new ministerial cabinet.

Given this state of affairs, it became obvious that first the student rallies and later the general rallies gave Havel a foundation on which to organize an opposition that did not really exist as such and to gradually outline goals contained in the petitions, always with large protests behind him. What motivated people? It all seemingly has to do with the long-standing resentment over what happened in 1968 when Warsaw Pact troops entered the country. Meeting in Moscow not long ago, the military alliance itself denounced the incident, as did several of the member countries individually.

I cannot help relating to readers one detail in this regard. When Adamec made his initial program public—the one that he was not allowed to implement—he said that a commission of historians ought to be set up to analyze the events of 1968 in depth. One cannot help but notice how paradoxical the proposal is. In other words, first the action is condemned, and then an investigation is called for to explain it. Should it have not been the other way around?

In spite of contradictory tendencies, such as the previously mentioned one, we see in both countries that the events interpreted to be the source of unrest run parallel. Other present-day factors undoubtedly must have played a role. In Czechoslovakia, an activist with one of the recently formed groups said that a half perestroyka like the one that was being pursued was bringing the country to ruin. He was referring to the reforms undertaken by Milos Jakes and the previous ruling group.

These leaders were charged with having taken "excessive action" during the student demonstrations on 17 November, the reason that was cited for ousting them from the party's ranks. The fact is that they did not have a chance to prove the merit of their intentions. Therefore, there is no basis on which to judge whether they were right or wrong. Besides, it is too late.

A recent plenum of the Czechoslovak Communist Party (CPCZ) reaffirmed that Marxism-Leninism was its ideological platform. It invited all forces to a dialogue. It called for the readmission of the honest activists who were removed from the ranks in 1968. It came out in favor of pluralism finding expression in a new concept of the National Front, an entity that brought together several political parties and organizations. These and other pronouncements suggested that the CPCZ was emerging largely successfully from harsh adversity. It has not been thrashed as badly as the party in the GDR, and thus certainly still has a chance to be at least a major political force with influence in the country's immediate future. By renouncing its guiding role, however, it has revealed a growing weakness, as pressures hostile to its philosophy gain momentum.

To view the masses as a homogeneous entity is as illogical as to believe that an entire nation thinks alike. It seems that the need for change and the cumulative mistakes combined with an opposition leadership that took shape rapidly. Along with this, it is impossible to ignore the contagious force of events in the surrounding nations, beginning with the Soviet Union itself, which they have now even outpaced.

Perhaps if the reforms had been implemented consistently, they would have benefited socialism at large, thus relieving it of burdens imposed by inappropriate models. But this has not happened. When steps are not duly weighed, they tend to lead in the direction opposite to that intended. Could the examples analyzed here be examples of such blunders?

Barbados

Sandiford Has No Plans To Devalue Dollar

FL0702233590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2059 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 7, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford said on Wednesday said he had no intention of devaluing the dollar despite opposition claims that the local currency is over-valued. Sandiford, addressing a luncheon of the island's Exempt Insurance Management Association, said:

"Maintaining the present parity of our dollar to the U.S. dollar is a policy to which I am unswervingly committed. In other words, I have no intention of devaluing the Barbados dollar." He added: "As a small, open economy, we favour and have maintained a fixed rate regime." The Barbados dollar is pegged to the U.S., at a rate of exchange of one U.S./two Bds [Barbados] dollars.

Sandiford said while he had no intention of devaluing the island's currency, certain policies had to be adopted in order to prevent "grave damage to our economic strength and social well-being." Among the policies are a reduction of fiscal deficits to levels that are easily manageable, wage policies which seek to share productivity gains rather than outstrip real growth, and a substantial balance of payments position where the earnings of competitive export sectors and the capital from "judicious foreign borrowing lead to accumulation of a comfortable level of foreign exchange reserves."

Opposition political groups here have accused the government of mis-managing the economy, and have said that the island would seek aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Sandiford made no mention of the opposition charges but indicated Barbados had "sound economic management."

Since the Exempt Insurance Act was passed in 1983, Barbados has attracted 178 captive insurance companies, with more than 1,000 nationals being employed either directly or indirectly in the sector. But Sandiford said if the island is to remain competitive "it is essential that in managing our

economy we must retain the confidence of the citizens... and those of you who have decided to locate your international business activities here."

President of the association, John Perham, said the removal of the federal excise tax from the U.S./Barbados Tax Treaty at the end of last year meant "there is no necessity for clients to visit Barbados to do their business". He said hotel accomodation was also proving to be a problem for the industry.

"If a group becomes fragmented and has to stay in two or three different hotels, I can tell you now that they will soon be looking for another destination in which to conduct their business meetings," he said. "I sincerely hope that the hotels concerned will think again, because they need our business, and our industry certainly needs the hotels," Perham added.

Perham said clients were seeking a stable centre to do business and with Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Luxembourg and several other places offering good services, Barbados should promote itself "as a quality international business centre where the emphasis is on personal service. I believe that we can offer the highest level of service and with a personal touch," he added.

Dominican Republic

More on Controversy Over Banana Exports

Caricom Membership in Doubt

FL0702005290 Bridgetown CANA in English 2204 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 6 CANA—The Dominican Republic may have effectively undermined its own effort to become a member of the Caribbean Community by a recently announced plan to export bananas to Europe from next April, according to St. Vincent Prime Minister James Mitchell.

Mitchell, whose country produces bananas, told CANA that he "will not be voting in favour of the Dominican Republic's application to join Caricom," now that the government in Santo Domingo has reneged on an earlier undertaking in Brussels to exclude itself from exporting bananas to Europe. In its bid to win the support of the Caricom countries to accede to membership of the fourth Lome Convention, the Dominican Republic had entered a memorandum of understanding in which it pledged not to compete with the African, Caribbean and Pacific [ACP] group of banana suppliers in the European market.

The memorandum, presented on October 27 last year to the ACP Secretariat by Joaquin Ricardo, foreign minister of the Dominican Republic, specifically assured the ACP states that:

1."The Dominican Republic will not seek to participate in the (ACP-EEC) sugar protocol; and

2."The Dominican Republic agrees not to participate in the benefits applicable to the ACP suppliers of bananas to the EEC under the (new Lome) convention..."

But last month President Joaquin Balaguer disclosed plans for port expansion to facilitate the Dominican Republic export of 763 tons of bananas weekly directly to Europe, earning U.S. 176,000 dollars. The marketing arrangements, to involve the British corporation, Fyffes, are expected to cover in a year's time the total amount of bananas shipped last year by, for example, Dominica - 42,000 tons.

Dominica's ambassador to the European Economic Community, Charles Savarin, who is also the spokesman for the Council of Caribbean Ambassadors to the EEC, has written to the outgoing secretary-general of the ACP, Edwin Carrington, noting with "regret" the Dominican Republic's move to renege on the October 1989 memorandum of understanding with its current plans to export bananas to Europe.

Prime Minister Mitchell, in the meantime has cabled the Dominican Republic's foreign minister stating that he was "disappointed to learn that the assurances given by the Dominican Republic on not producing bananas for the European community are meaningless..."

Mitchell said "It is now obvious that the spirit of support given by St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the Dominican Republic's accession to Lome has been abandoned. In telegraphing the expected blocking of the Dominican Republic's bid to join Caricom, Mitchell said:

"It may be that the Dominican Republic values export of bananas to the European Community as more important than membership of the Caribbean Community. As far as St.Vincent and the Grenadines is concerned we assume that your quest for membership of Caricom is abandoned."

Prime Minister John Compton of St Lucia was not available for a comment on the move by the Dominican Republic. St Lucia is the biggest producer of bananas in the Windward Islands, exporting some 105,000 tons last year.

The Caricom ambassadors to Brussels have separately communicated with the Balaguer government seeking "a clarification" for the so-called "banana blunder" which runs counter to the official assurances as set out in the memorandum of understanding of October last year. The planned annual banana export to Europe by the Dominican Republic in three years time will be approximately 107,000 tons, or almost one third of total Caribbean exports of 325,000 tons of bananas to the UK last year.

The banana-producing countries of Caricom—the Windward Islands, Jamaica and to a lesser extent Belize—have been repeatedly expressing fears over the future of

this region's banana export with a single market from 1992, particularly with the competition to be faced from Latin American banana producers which in 1988 accounted to more than 50 per cent of bananas consumed in Europe. While the banana protocol under Lome provides for financial incentives for banana growers, it does not set quotas.

Prime Minister Mitchell in a BBC interview broadcast on Monday pointed out that the Dominican Republic had very low wage rates and would be able to produce at a lower cost than the Caribbean. He viewed the financial implications to the region as "very serious."

Caricom Vows To Fight

FL0702165090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1548 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Washington, D.C., Feb 7, CANA—The Caribbean Community [Caricom] will "use every muscle we have" to respond to the Dominican Republic if it reneges on an argument [as received] not to export bananas to the European Community, Dominica's Trade and Industry Minister Charles Maynard has said. "We are shocked at the news and are hoping the reports are not true. If the reports are true then we must reconsider the trust and integrity which are supposed to characterise our relations," Maynard said.

The minister told a press conference here that Caricom's relations with its friends are based on honesty and integrity and that the regional body would have to remove from its agenda any consideration of the Dominican Republic's application for membership of the regional body. He said that country's observer status in the standing committee of ministers of agriculture would also have to be reconsidered.

"They gave us their commitment that they would be no part of the beneficial arrangements for rum, sugar, and bananas. When we first discussed the agreement, Spain was not particularly happy but the Dominican Republic said it would go ahead with the agreement. We really hope there is no truth to this and we are awaiting a response from them about the report," Maynard said.

Protest Called 'Unjustified'

FL0702173990 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The president of the Dominican Association of Exporters, Adoexpo, has termed as unjustified the protest made by African, Asian, and Pacific countries over the sale of Dominican bananas to the U.K. Silvestre Aybar Sanchez explained that after signing the protocol during the Fourth Lome Convention, the country gave up technical and financial aid for the development of production and improvement of the nation's agricultural sectors. He said that the other member countries of the Lome Convention should not be concerned about the sale of bananas to the U.K. during the past few months.

Finally, Adoexpo President Silvestre Aybar Sanchez said: There should not be any concern, because they benefit more by our giving up the technical and financial aid protocol—we have less advantages than the other member countries.

Electoral Board Recognizes 20 Political Groups

FL0702183790 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The Central Electoral Board has recognized 20 political movements in this capital and in the interior of the country and has turned down two others for not fulfilling the electoral law requirements for the creation of political groups. By a vote of six to 90, the electoral tribunal has also designated a deadline of 25 February for the recognized movements to find a place from which to work.

The movements recognized by the Central Electoral Board are: the Women's Independent Movement, Broad Electoral Front for Communal Organizations, National District Agricultural Renewal Movement, San Juan Independent Movement, Fraternal-Provincial Movement, Mina de Nagua Independent Movement, Vindication Movement, and the Independent Action Movement, among others.

Grenada

Jones Warns of 'Chaos and Repression'

FL0702181590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1728 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Report by George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 7, CANA—Prime Minister Ben Jones warned about chaos and repression on Wednesday, as Grenada celebrated the 16th anniversary of political independence from Britain. Jones, speaking amidst preparations for a general election, said that Grenada is now standing at the crossroads and if the right decision is not made the island could end up in "an abyss of chaos and repression."

Jones warned Grenadians that a bad choice could leave them with dictatorship of either the left or right. He said the way ahead is one of either continuing the steadfast march of progress brought in December 1984 general elections or to become mired in experiments of uncertainity.

"Let us, therefore, be quite clear that the road to a prosperous nation in which every citizen enjoys freedom and is free to pursue happiness did not and will not come through dictatorship or class struggle but through a vibrant democratic system," he said during a ceremony at Queen's Park.

Jones' government took office in 1984 in an election which restored parliamentary rule following nearly five

years of Marxist experiment. The Marxist rulers had seized power in a 1979 coup d'etat against the Eric Gairy government. Under the Constitution, Jones must call elections before the end of next month. Political parties here are already well into campaigning.

Jones appealed to Grenadians to make a resolve to work together "to build a prosperous nation on the basis of peace, justice and stability." Jones referred to the last five years on the island as the "glorious era" of independence, with private enterprise blossoming. He said the island's economy has managed to recover from negative growth and was now impproving, unlike what happened in the first eleven years of independence.

"We have unleashed a new democratic vitality by promoting freedom, individual initative, and spontaneous prosperity," he remarked. Jones described the decade just started as a time to solve problems and one to drive the nation forward through "the foundation of peace, freedom, stability in a genuine democracy."

He underscored the need to build "a strong democratic order" so as to ensure "a genuine and lasting stability." He also called on Grenadians to join him in a "maximum effort" to make the island "the brightest, happiest, and most prosperous country in the Caribbean."

Jones also took issue with Sir Eric for holding separate Independence Day celebrations. "Actions such as this tend to divide the society, to lead to a lack of national pride, and to undermine the spirit of togetherness," he said. Gairy who took the island from associated statehood with Britain to full independence on February 7, 1974 is having his own celebrations at the Grand Anse beach in the south of the island.

During Wednesday's official ceremony at Queen's Park, a one-minute mark of silence was observed to mark the passing, last December, of Jones' predecessor, Herbert Blaize. Jones urged Grenadians to continue the legacy of Blaize who he said devoted his entire life to the cause of the nation.

Apart from Jones' speech, the major highlights of the celebrations were a military parade and several cultural presentations.

Maurice Bishop Movement Outlines Party Plans

FL0702002290 Bridgetown CANA in English 2142 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Feb 6, CANA—Grenada's small left-wing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) says it will pursue a mixed economic model of development if it wins the coming general elections. MBPM leader Dr. Terry Marryshow said that the state sector would be allowed to play the dominant role. He told CANA that the party would not only attempt to develop agriculture but diversify the sector along the same lines as the 1979-83 People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

The MBPM is an off-shoot of the PRG-led New Jewel Movement (NJM) which ruled the island during a 1979-83 Marxist experiment. Its non-elected rule ended when U.S. troops stormed the island to restore order following a bloody palace coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was killed.

According to Marryshow, an MBPM government would increase the island's tourism budget to about 4 million East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar—37 U.S. cents) annually. He said the party would also be willing to get involved in hotel construction if it considers the pace too slow in the private sector.

"We would try to seek help from outside to get involved in the building of hotels at the state level but putting them into private hands to be run," he remarked. Marryshow said the MBPM is quite concerned about the level of unemployment in the country, which he estimated at 40 percent of the labour force. He spoke of the party seeing agriculture as the main pillar for building the economy and planning to bring all idle lands into production in an effort to create much-needed jobs.

Marryshow said that if the MBPM was elected it would hold dialogue with the owners of idle lands to get them into production through incentives or have them leased to government on a long-term basis. He stated that there would be no confiscation of lands as was the case during the PRG rule since "we have seen the repercussions from the owners themselves and the general public. We believe that we can appeal to these people's basic instinct, and to their better sense of judgement," he added.

Those now in charge of the country have had to pay out thousands of dollars in compensation to land owners following the PRG act of confiscation.

Haiti

President Avril Declares General Amnesty

PA0802004090 Paris AFP in Spanish 0021 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Port-Au-Prince, 7 Feb (AFP)—The Haitian military Government, headed by President General Prosper Avril, announced a general amnesty tonight on the fourth anniversary of Jean-Claude Duvalier's fall. In a message to the nation, Avril called for a dialogue and concerted efforts with a view to a peaceful and democratic transition that will begin in Haiti this year with the elections.

The general amnesty benefits four opposition politicians whom the military authorities accused of having tried to murder Gen. Avril, as well as other people who were arrested during the state of siege in effect 20-29 January. The four opposition leaders were released today.

Panpra Issues Press Release on Beatings

FL0702195290 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] During the news conference held yesterday by the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, Serge Gilles' Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra] distributed to the press an account of the manner in which party members were arrested during the 20 January events, as well as the brutality to which Panpra members were subjected. Here is a report from Clarens Renois.

[Clarens] The severe beatings endured by leaders of opposition parties while the emergency measures of 20 January 1990 were in effect constitutes a first in the nation's history. Certain observers also feel these occurrences are the most terrible, most humiliating slap in the face ever given political leaders.

Serge Gilles, a highly regarded intellectual; Hubert de Ronceray, a sociologist; and other prominent figures, among them physicians, engineers, and agronomists, were kicked around by soldiers who insulted and humiliated them. Five members of Panpra were victims of these soldiers and have told us about their experience.

At approximately 1400 on Saturday, 20 January, six heavily armed civilians entered the home of Serge Gilles without a warrant. Armed with guns, they burst into the living room , threw Gilles face down onto the floor, and kicked him several times, particularly around the stomach. This scene, accompanied by insults against all political figures, was played out in the presence of Gilles' wife and two children. [passage omitted] The men sacked every room in the house and then asked Gilles to turn over all his weapons to them.

Since, as allowed by the Constitution, he keeps a revolver for his personal security—and I am quoting the Panpra communique here—Serge Gilles handed over his weapon to them; and for the third time, they kicked the Panpra coordinator several times. The armed men then handcuffed Gilles and dragged him before the other party members and sympathizers who were present at his house at the time, saying: After having beaten you, we are going to beat, while you watch, the other members of your party. They flung all the leaders and friends present down onto the floor and kicked them and hit them with a heavy ashtray all over their bodies. All this occurred in the presence of Gilles' wife and children.

The armed men handcuffed all the members of the team and took them to several vehicles belonging to the General Tax Administration in which were (Aby) Brun, a leader of the National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements, and Gesner Prudent, both of whom had been visibly manhandled. [passage omitted]

Next, says Panpra, these six heavily armed civilians took the arrested Panpra members to the courtyard of the National Palace, where they were met by an excited mob of soldiers who thrashed them inside the jeeps, insulted them, and crudely made fun of their desire to organize democratic elections. That was when Serge Gilles received a blow to the left ear that ruptured his eardrum. According to the soldier who committed this act, Gilles is involved in politics because he hears too well. [passage omitted]

A little later, the arrested men were taken to the Antigang Service and locked up in a cell for about 30 minutes. They were not insulted by the Port-au-Prince police; they were received properly, and even somewhat courteously, according to the Panpra communique. They were then taken before Major Clerjeune, who apologized, informing them that their names were not on the list of people being sought. Maj. Clerjeune invited Gilles to meet with Colonel Romulus, chief of the Port-au-Prince police. Col. Romulus also apologized to Gilles, returning his revolver and weapon permit. [passage omitted]

I quote the Panpra communique: We wish to assure the Haitian people, Panpra's 150,000 members and sympathizers, and international public opinion that despite this difficult trial, our leaders' morale is intact. They reiterate to their wretched tormentors—just as they have told them face to face—that they are not being moved by a spirit of revenge. They know that both they and their tormentors are, before anything else, victims of an arcahaic system, the survival of which to the present day constitutes a dishonor to the Haitian people.

The Panpra leaders write that they believe the holding of democratic elections is obligatory for democracy and progess. Finally, they call on all of Haiti's political forces to seek unity and the largest consensus possible to help Haiti out of its current impasse.

That, then, is the account—in a Panpra communique—of the arrests, violence, and exactions perpetrated against Panpra coordinator Serges Gilles, Georges Werleigh, Philippe Stephenson, party leader Yves Duval, and Reverend Jackson Noel, who were all at Serge Gilles' home on 20 January.

Christian Democrats Claim Harassment in Provinces

FL0702193990 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Reverend Sylvio Claude's Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] is concerned about the harassment and persecution of its members in the provinces. Clarens?

[Reporter Clarens Renois] We are worried, but not afraid, writes the secretariat of the PDCH, which is headed by Rev. Sylvio Claude. The members and sympathizers of this party throughout Haiti have been made targets of persecution and different forms of harassment for some time now.

In a press release issued yesterday, the PDCH reported several violations of the right of party members to assemble and hold meetings, including in Les Cayes,

Gonaives, Cap-Haitien, Thiotte, Thomazeau, and Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye. According to the PDCH press release, in Les Cayes, the Army invaded the home of the PDCH's permanent delegate, who was later summoned by the area's military commanders and reproached for having held political meetings behind the Armed Forces' back.

In Gonaives, the military made a list of the names of participants in a PDCH training seminar. In Thiotte, the area military commander prevented another such seminar. Finally, in Thomazeau, the PDCH headquarters was destroyed and PDCH members arrested and tortured by soldiers. The PDCH writes: We do not intend to give in to pressure and persecution. The PDCH calls on its members to stand firm and continue the battle for change.

Communist Leader Says 'Nothing Has Changed'

FL0702194390 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Today is 6 February 1990. Exactly four years ago, the nation was practically paralyzed. Businesses, schools, and radio stations were shut down. There were anti-Duvalier demonstrations in the provinces and flaming barricades across National Highways 1 and 2. The movement to uproot was under way. Jean-Claude Duvalier and those close to him were to leave the following day, 7 February, for France.

Four years later, Haitians who dreamed of democracy, political pluralism, and social change appear to have forgotten that historic date. There is nothing planned for Port-au-Prince or the rest of Haiti to commemorate 7 February. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Rothschild Francois Jr.] [passage omitted] Four years after the Duvaliers' departure, everyone admits the nation's current situation is far from what we had hoped for.

One of the political exiles who has returned to Haiti since 7 February 1986, Rene Theodore, says nothing has changed. The Communist leader says he feels freedom of expression is one of the very few conquests of 7 February remaining in Haiti. He adds that corruption is still very much present within the public administration. To support his claim, the leader of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists gives quite a number of examples, among others the current rumor that $30 million has disappeared from Minoterie d'Haiti [the national flour mill] and the squandering of Telecommunications d'Haiti [national telephone company] and Electricite d'Haiti [national electrical power company] funds.

Theodore believes the extreme poverty prevailing in Haiti four years after the fall of the Duvaliers is mainly because of the forms of governments that have been in power.

[Begin Rene Theodore recording, in Creole] I ask myself: What has changed? Regarding the living condition of the masses, one can say that nothing has changed; in fact, the situation has gotten worse. As for the corruption blooming in the country that caused an entire people to rise up and protest Jean-Claude Duvalier, it remains in its entirety! It is not just a couple of million of dollars that certain people are making at Haiti's expense!

In addition, this is all supplemented by still another situation: the matter of contraband. [end recording]

[Francois] Despite the fact that he notes this post-Duvalier failure, the communist leader feels we must not give in to discouragement. Theodore says there is still hope, because the 7 February 1986 dream of a better Haiti remains alive. Theodore feels the nation must eliminate (?its systems) of autocratic government.

[Begin Theodore recording, in Creole] All responsible political sectors that think the Haitian people do need to get together are truly in need of unity so they will feel that their hopes for change are well founded. They must unite on at least one thing: that the form of government must be changed. The form of government against which they were struggling on 7 February 1986, which was a form of personal power, (?continues) to the present day, and we must continue to struggle against it. We must all sit down together beside the Haitian people to commit ourselves to a fight for genuine democracy and a fight to put an end to everything that presents a major obstacle to economic and social development in Haiti—for example, corruption, contraband, embezzlement, and dictatorship. [end recording]

St. Kitts and Nevis

Simmonds Notes Problems in Sugar Industry

FL0702191790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1835 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, Feb 7, CANA—St. Kitts and Nevis started harvesting its 1990 sugar crop this week, with Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds insisting that the island cannot afford to abandon the industry, despite its bleak future. "We are aware that the industry has lost its predominance in recent times, but it is still a major earner of foreign exchange in our federation," he said.

"Furthermore, the planting of sugarcane plays an important role in land conservation and the impact of taking nearly ten acres of land out of cane would have to be carefully studied....," Simmonds added.

Simmonds said that the passage of Hurricane Hugo last year had sharply reduced production. Simmonds said the 1990 sugar harvest is expected to yield only 18,000 tons. He said as a result of this and other factors, nearly EC 12 million dollars (one EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) would be needed to supplement the industry, even before the start of this year's crop.

Simmonds said the St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation (SSMC) had entered into an agreement with Bookers Limited, a British sugar company "whereby the SSMC will be provided with six million dollars in advance of the 1990 shipment of sugar."

He said the sugar industry faced a number of "serious operational and financial problems" despite earlier attempts to relieve the industry of massive debts. "The bank overdraft of the state-owned corporation has been climbing dramatically," he added. Simmonds said a number of factors were responsible for the massive decline in the performance of the sugar industry, among them the strong performance of the tourism and manufacturing sectors. "These factors have resulted in a steady flow of workers away from the sugar industry, and as a result the very labour intensive process of harvesting the sugar cane has been significantly hampered in recent times," he added.

Simmonds said his government had sought the assistance of the World Bank to "design and implement a programme to keep the industry afloat." "As part of the programme the World Bank has provided the industry with an advance of U.S. 306,000 dollars, to assist the SSMC in enhancing and improving its harvesting activities and instituting greater financial control and operational efficiency."

Simmonds said the decline in revenue from the sugar harvest this year "will impact negatively on the cash flow of the SSMC." "Yet we cannot abandon the sugar industry in the short run without creating some degree of dislocation in the domestic economy," Simmonds added.

PRD Members Hold Watch To Protest Violence

FL0702190090 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1612 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Chilpancingo, 7 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Approximately 300 members of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) in Guerrero State have kept this city's municipal hall under siege, demanding an end to postelection violence. After the legislative elections in 75 municipalities in this state, in the southern part of the country, PRD and Institutional Revolutionary Party members began to claim victories in various mayoral races and use pressure to obtain their objectives. To date, 13 municipalities are awaiting a solution and about 20 people have died in confrontations between members of the two parties.

The siege of the Chilpancingo municipal hall began 5 February, when the PRD members gathered in front of the hall to begin an indefinite watch and demand an end to the violence and a solution to the conflicts in the 13 municipalities. Although they stated that it was a peaceful action, a large number of the PRD members on watch were armed with machetes, sticks, and various sharp-edged objects. According to PRD state leader Rosalio Wences Reza, the watch was not an attempt to boycott Guerrero Governor Francisco Ruiz Massieu's report, although he asserted that on that day, the PRD members will hold a larger rally.

Authorities Discover Illegal Weapons Shipment

FL0702195890 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1617 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The district attorney's office has presented an arsenal of very sophisticated and modern weapons seized in January in the port of Veracruz—in the eastern part of the country—that were headed for a phantom company in the state of Michoacan. The cargo, which came from Lebanon, contains 270 FAL, G3, and AK-47 rifles; a 7.62-caliber submachine gun; two 223-caliber Colt machine guns [as received]; 15 9-mm Browning pistols; 4,988 useful rounds of various calibers; and 702 cartridge clips. The weapons were manufactured in the PRC, Hungary, the United States, Belgium, and Lebanon.

The district attorney's office has explained that the arsenal found on board the Mexican ship Sonora was addressed to Super Comercial Agropecuaria San Pablo, a phantom company supposedly established in Lazaro Cardenas, Michoacan, in the western part of the country. The office rejected any possibility that the weapons were headed for Michoacan opposition groups who have claimed election victories; rather, it stressed, they were in transit.

The cargo discovered on 27 January on a Mexican-registered ship was recorded as cans of Lebanese-maid garbanzo paste. The ship was loaded on 5 December in Belgium and had already passed through the Netherlands; Bremen, FRG; Le Havre, France; Miami, Florida; and Houston, with the port of Veracruz as its final destination. It is not yet known who was to pick up the cargo, but the District Attorney's Office has indicated that those responsible will soon be found.

Costa Rica

Alleged Terrorists Arrested; Charges Pending

PA0802040890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2320 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 7 Feb (ACAN-EFE) — Nine Costa Ricans, out of a group of 70 "trained in Libya and Nicaragua," were arrested this week and will be brought before the justice tribunals, official sources reported today.

A spokesman from the Special Affairs Section of the Costa Rican police told ACAN-EFE that the alleged terrorists "intended to disturb public order." Therefore, they will be charged with "association with criminal intent, terrorist activity, and threats."

According to the source, false passports, "very compromising documents, and antidemocratic propaganda" was seized from the detainees, whose identity is being kept secret to prevent the investigation from being hampered.

The preliminary investigation has revealed that the members of the so-called "Juan Santamaria Command" were recruited in Costa Rica, sent to Libya for basic terrorist training, and stopped in Nicaragua on the way back.

The command, which was thought to have been linked with the left wing, has been connected to various terrorist attacks that occurred some two years ago against U.S. Government offices; the attacks include a bomb that exploded in mid-1988 in front of the U.S. Consulate in San Jose and injured several people.

A few months later, the source added, another bomb was set off near the U.S-Costa Rican Cultural Center, and one person, who has not yet recovered, was injured.

El Salvador

FMLN Reportedly Running Out of Combatants

PA0802043390 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 7 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Miguel Angel Argueta Guardado has been arrested by the National Guard for being a close collaborator of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

Argueta, who was captured in Nanastepeque Canton, Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department, told his captors that the FMLN has run out of combatants. Argueta confessed that he often transported weapons, medicine, clothing, stores and ammunition, food, propaganda, and so on.

"The FMLN commanders" are running out of combatants, and this is why they have ordered the recruitment of children, eight years old and older, of either sex.

During the so-called offensive to the hilt, the FMLN sustained a very large number of casualties and this is why it urgently needs to recruit new combatants.

Parents in several regions of the country are alarmed and have asked official organizations to intercede with the terrorist groups to prevent the kidnapping of their children.

Military sources reported that three armed clashes, which occurred in different places, have resulted in four terrorists and three military men being wounded.

The 6th Infantry Brigade reported a clash near La Nena Farm, Jucuapa jurisdiction, Usulutan Department, in which two FMLN extremists were wounded.

This brigade reported another clash near La Bomba Stream, San Agustin, Usulutan Department. Two wounded terrorists managed to escape from the area with help from their own men. Nine booby traps, several cartridge clips, and a knapsack containing various war supplies and ammunition was recovered.

32 War-Maimed Rebels Can Leave for Cuba 7 Feb

FL0802023590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0202 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Catholic Church has reported that 32 handicapped Salvadoran guerrilla fighters can leave for Cuba tonight. Their evacuation was handled by Mexican Embassy officials.

The group of maimed rebels, members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), occupied El Calvario Church in this capital on 7 November. They demanded the Salvadoran Government comply with the Geneva Convention.

Five days ago, congress approved an amnesty decree for the war-maimed rebels which, according to Legislation Commission Chairman Raul Somoza Alfaro, was requested by the Mexican Government.

The Mexican Embassy has not reported on the efforts made together with the International Red Cross with Salvadoran authorities but the archbishop's legal aid office confirmed that the handicapped people could leave tonight.

According to the source, the administrative procedures enabling the guerrilla fighters to leave the country were completed today. Thus, their evacuation from the Catholic church and later transfer to the airport is expected to take place today.

In 10 years of war, 367 FMLN maimed have left the country in seven groups. The last one left in October after 46 former fighters entered the Mexican Embassy in this capital.

Guatemala

Cerezo Comments on Human Rights, Other Issues

PA0702231490 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0530 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Report on news conference by President Vinicio Cerezo at the presidential palace on 6 February—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] This morning President Vinicio Cerezo hosted a news conference at the presidential palace office. The president was asked about the human rights situation in our country. In addition, [words indistinct] presented by the United Nations rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission.

[Cerezo] "[Words indistinct] of the commission that has arrived in Guatemala [words indistinct]. We all must admit that in 1989 there was [words indistinct] that created an atmosphere of terrorism and [words indistinct]. On various occasions and in several criminal and political cases, it was decided that [words indistinct] that continues progressing, but there is an even better way yet. The truth of the matter is that the institutions that are going to protect human rights are making more progress each day and becoming more operational. The authorities are becoming more cooperative every day with the various institutions that are concerned about the human rights situation.

"[Words indistinct] to create a new system for locating missing people. We have found a system that allows us to locate many missing people, and [words indistinct]. [Passage indistinct].

"Frankly speaking, [name indistinct] is a serious man who deserves all of my trust and respect for his capabilities. He has said we have problems with controlling some terrorist groups, and what we need is assistance in improving our efficiency. He has pointed out some defects in our penal procedures that make it difficult for us to keep these people in prison.

"However, his conclusions do not necessarily mean we are getting worse. That has not been mentioned in the news. His conclusions note that in spite of these observations that he had to make as United Nations observer for Guatemala, the situation in our country has obviously improved, compared to the previous years. We are taking all of this into consideration. This has been included in a written report that will be noted in Geneva when considering treatment for Guatemala.

"I will point out something very specific. In the analysis [words indistinct] he points out that there is a very serious problem in the Guatemalan penal system because the police do not conduct investigations, but instead [words indistinct]. Then, the judge cannot conduct an investigation. Back in the times of General Ubico, judges conducted investigations because Ubico decided who should be condemned; he made the decisions. It was easy because there were fewer crimes, comparatively speaking, as the population was smaller.

"However, the police do not have these opportunities any more. If the judge does not specifically order them to conduct an investigation, then once the criminal has been sent to jail, we do not have the right to search his home, investigate him, or call witnesses. We cannot do this unless we have the judge's orders. That is a problem, and it must be amended in the procedure, and [name indistinct] has pointed this out in good faith.

"The Supreme Court of Justice and the administration reviewed the observations and then hired a United Nations adviser to study the new new procedural code of Guatemala, which could actually be an innovation. This will be presented to Congress this year. The Supreme Court of Justice is working on this so the written procedure can become an oral one. This would, in turn, give the attorney general the authority to be the true prosecutor and investigator. In addition, the police director would have the authority to be an investigator. In this manner, we are truly going to be able to solve many of the problems.

"As I said in my speech, this is a vital and institutional problem. We must readapt our institutions to a democratic life, because our former institutions belonged to the past, when the president was a dictator, either openly or disguised. He decided what was to be done, and he condemned or absolved people as he saw fit. Right now, we have legal procedures and we must respect them.

"That is [words indistinct]. Therefore, we are not unhappy with his report. It is a correct report that we are implementing, and the Geneva commission must seriously analyze what it has to do. To condemn Guatemala would be condemning a country that is doing everything possible to get ahead, and forgetting those countries that instead of progressing are falling behind. There is no point of comparison between those countries that have engaged in very serious crimes against human rights, and countries that have difficulties getting ahead."

Concerning the proposal for a presidential candidate who will be aware of the people's needs, President Cerezo answered:

[Cerezo] "I think it has been said that the presidential candidate is Jorge Carpio. That is fine. It is good that he gets out and learns the country's true situation. It would be very bad if he became president without knowing the basic needs of Guatemalans. We have been aware of those needs for many years, and we have worked hard to fulfill them. That is what I was telling you.

"The truth of the matter is that in his speech, which was very finely prepared for publicity, he shows that he is terribly misinformed about Guatemalan problems. That is very bad. Should he become president, he will then start to learn. First, he is going to learn what the needs are, and then, he will learn how to rule the country. Fine

mess! That is a problem in Guatemala. We Guatemalans sometimes like to change to try new things, and that is fine. But we cannot do this throughout our lives. "I believe that, at least, he is very sincere. He does not even know [laughs] what we are lacking. That is terrible! He will need another 5 years. I think he should just continue being a good opposition candidate so he can learn well, as well as trying to become a ruler.

"Anything can happen in Guatemala because this is a democratic country. The opposition from the center, or from the National Action Party [as heard], or from the group created by the military men in eastern Guatemala, could win; anyone could win here.

"However, Guatemalans will have to make a decision based on two very important criteria. We have been following a policy that, like all countries in the world, will yield results in the future. If a new president is installed now [words indistinct]. As we say here, they will have to choose between a team they already know and a team they do not. "In 5 years we have gained the experience needed to rule the country; this has (?entailed) a lot of time and money. Guatemalans could now elect a president who will start to learn how to rule. They will have to chose between experience and a style they already know, and inexperience and a style that they do not yet know."

The president commented on the statements made by parliamentarian [name indistinct] regarding the most recent actions carried out by the subversives:

[Cerezo] "The deputy has no right to say that; really, he is being unfair to the Army and government because both had, for a long time, given very little information to the opposition about military issues. We have even given them confidential information [words indistinct] public. That is the truth."

The Guatemalan president commented on his government's viewpoints regarding the social [word indistinct]:

[Cerezo] "The government is looking into that. All Guatemalans should follow our example. This is an election year. During election years, there are attempts to create a number of conflicts and instability, to blame the government and defeat it in the elections. Those who want to win the elections and those who want to see us lose the elections would do this.

"The people must realize it will take years for a process to be consolidated in Guatemala. Groups that have not yet gotten used to solving problems via dialogue and (?patriotic) means will continue their efforts. That is a fact. There are groups that will take advantage of the elections and social conflicts to provoke instability to discredit the government and lessen its possibilities of winning the elections.

"These problems are natural, and all of them can be resolved. In Guatemala, as you know, there is the belief that the government of the Republic is responsible for everything. If something is done, the government is to blame; if something is not done, the goverment is also to blame. Social movements take place; factories are occupied and strikes are called. These things happen because economic measures have indeed created some social and socioeconomic problems.

"These problems would be more easily resolved if the Guatemalan employers were more flexible about increasing wages in keeping with cost-of-living increases and the workers' productivity. Not all employers are inflexible, but many are. Although the international price of sugar has increased, the wages of sugar industry workers have not increased accordingly. Can you imagine? [chuckles] And these employeers are among the most flexible regarding wage increases. Can you imagine the situation in other industries?

"The government must work along with the labor unions; the employers must support wage increases. However, some labor unions are taking action and are only complicating matters further. Let us take the case of a labor union that seizes a factory because its workers are very poorly paid. That union has a right to protest and demand wage increases. However, it would be a crime if it seized the factory; we would be forced to defend the employers. That would be a bad move.

"On the other hand, if the union chose to continue a dialogue, we would insist that the employers increase wages. This would eliminate having to expose the injustices they are committing by paying such poor wages. We had not realized [words indistinct] in political terms. I urge you to seek legal means. The unions have rights, but they must follow the legal path.

"In a changing country, it is normal for people to organize and take action to demand respect for their rights. Gradually, and to the extent that the democratic government consolidates itself, it would enforce the law and bring about greater stability."

Leaders Meet To Form Opposition Front 3 Feb

PA0802034790 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Feb 90 pp 4, 38

[Text] Various Guatemalan political leaders met in Chiquimula on 3 February to form an opposition front, the members of which will be both civilians and retired military men. According to what was officially told to this newspaper, the front would promote the presidential candidacy of an Army general.

General Manuel Benedicto Lucas Garcia, former chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, also attended the meeting. Lucas said the participants to the meeting discussed forming a true opposition group that is not in alliance with the Christian Democracy (DC).

Lucas Garcia added that people are filled with uncertainty and anxiety because of the prevailing insecurity, the economic crisis, and the government's inability to

solve the nation's most pressing problems. Lucas Garcia said the military candidate elected by the opposition front would have the support of former Guatemalan President General Manuel Arana Osorio. Although Gen. Lucas did not mention it, it was learned that representatives of various groups attended the meeting in Chiquimula, including PR [Revolutionary Party] representatives, who also favor forming an opposition front and the presidential candidacy of a member of the military.

The the members of the military mentioned as possible members of the front include: Gen. Lucas Garcia; General Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, secretary general of the National Unification Movement (MUN); Colonel Luis Franco Gordillo Martinez, secretary general of the Emergent Movement for Harmony (MEC); Jose Efrain Rios Mont, former head of state; Anibal Guevara Rodriguez; and others.

At the meeting, political leaders Walter Overdick; Napoleon Alfaro; former Labor Minister Carlos Alarcon Monsanto; Tysbee Payeras de Munoz, secretary general of the Feminine Party of Guatemala (PFG); journalist Eduardo Soria Santiago; and lawyer Luis Felipe Monroy stated that they will soon release the name of the member of the military they will support in the upcoming presidential elections.

Francisco Reyes Ixcamey, secretary general of the Popular Democratic Front (FDP), said yesterday that Guatemala faces a very complex situation. Reyes added that social explosions could occur because of the government's inability to solve the country's economic problems.

Reyes added that there are attacks, robberies, and murders in every Guatemalan community, in addition to the more important problems the Guatemalan people are experiencing as a result of the economic crisis, which harms the nation's most needy groups.

Reyes Ixcamey said Guatemalans are crying out for a military government, as proven by a recent poll, the results of which were released by the Free Enterprise Chamber.

Reyex Ixcamey stressed: For the time being, our party supports General Efrain Rios Mont's candidacy, but if he cannot participate in the elections for whatever reason, the FDP, which is already a legally established party, will promote the candidacy of any other member of the military including Gen. Benedicto Lucas, Colonel Luis Ernesto Sosa Avila, Gen. Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, Colonel Abundio Maldonado Gularte, or General Fausto David Rubio Coronado.

It was learned that although General Arana Osorio cannot run as a presidential candidate, he could support the Opposition Unification Front (FUO) [Frente de Unificacion Opositora].

Jorge Canale Nanne, Union of the National Center (UCN) leader, stated that a military candidacy could hinder the Guatemalan democratization process.

Canale stressed: The prevailing Guatemalan situation is being observed by the entire international community, which has reiterated the need for Guatemala to continue to be ruled by civilian governments and which has suggested that the Army should stop getting involved in politics.

Canale added: The truth is that civilians must join efforts with the military to seek prompt solutions to the country's problems, but matters concerning politics should be the exclusive responsibility of civilians.

Canale said: I personally respect the Army. I am aware it has men who are capable of performing many tasks. International political observers, however, recommend that a civilian and not a soldier be the next Guatemalan president.

Political analyst and writer Julio Ligorria Carballido, who is currently living in Miami, Florida, told this newspaper that in his opinion, the Guatemalan Army decided to withdraw from electoral activities a long time ago. He said the Guatemalan Army decided to work for superior interests of the nation.

Ligorria said: During these five years and despite the attempted coups caused by the inability and irresponsibility of the country's current leaders, it has been fully demonstrated that the Army prefers supporting the democratization process to giving in to the temptation of assuming a de facto power in Guatemala. Ligorria added: That clearly indicates that the active Guatemalan soldiers support the consolidation of democracy in our country and the Guatemalan people's right to freely elect the person that we believe meets the necessary requirements to lead this nation.

Ligorria Carballido, author of the book "Paths of Freedom," added that doctors, lawyers, journalists, businessmen, and soldiers can run as presidential candidates. Ligorria added, however, that the most important thing is that the candidates should be people whose democratic convictions have been fully demonstrated. The Guatemalan people do not forget who has been in favor of and against freedom in this country.

Ligorria said: "The democratizing tendency Latin America is currently experiencing and the changes taking place in East Europe are increasingly moving us away from radical positions and getting us closer to more moderate positions. I believe a military presidential candidate in the current election process—because of its connotations—would not have much of a chance over civilian candidates, despite the current insecurity in Guatemala.

Former Labor Minister Carlos Alarcon Monsanto said Guatemala is experiencing difficult times because of the economic crisis and the prevailing insecurity throughout

the nation. He said the situation leads to the need for a military government. Alarcon, who has been a PR member for many years, said he will support Gen. Benedicto Lucas Garcia's presidential candidacy, because PR leaders are accused of some kind of scheming with the government.

PFG Secretary General Tysbee Payeras de Munoz said her party agreed to support Lucas Garcia's presidential candidacy during the meeting held in Chiquimula on Saturday, 3 February.

Payeras de Munoz said: As mothers, wives, housewives, and citizens who have been seriously affected by the economic crisis and the prevailing violence, we need to seek the best solution. We have decided to support the presidential candidacy of an outstanding man like Lucas Garcia, who is widely recognized as an honest and capable man, a man determined to defend Guatemalan sovereignty.

Democratic Socialist Party Views Unity Front

PA0702221990 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1230 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Referring to the recently (?organized) Opposition Unity Front [Frente de Unidad de Oposicion]—the members of which include various Army officers who have ruled the country over the past 12 years—the Socialist Democratic Party [PSD] has said in a communique that the people have not forgotten that we were ruled from a mountain of corpses.

We cannot forget the assassinations of Alberto Fuentes Moor, Manuel Colomargueta, Adolfo Mijangos Lopez, and thousands and thousands of Guatemalans. We cannot forget the looting of our national resources, and the debts we are still paying, the PSD communique states referring to the military. Army officers [General Fernando] Romeo Lucas Garcia, his brother [Brigadier General] Benedicto Lucas, [Brigadier General Jose] Efrain Rios Montt, [Colonel] Abundio Maldonado, [General] Angel Anibal Guevara Rodriguez, and many others are among the members of the so-called Opposition Unity Front. Most Guatemalan governments have been military governments, which have reached power through fraud or coups d'etat and which never solved Guatemala's problems, the PSD communique adds.

Finally, the PSD points out that the irresponsibility, corruption, and the incapacity of the Christian Democratic Government is not justification that the people require a military government. Insecurity is not an argument either, because the people have been insecure for the past few decades.

Recent Poll Shows UCN Strongest Party

PA0802024490 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy, DCG, who has been nominated as presidential candidate "with the blessings of President Cerezo," has said the DCG is still strong, according to a communique issued by his "campaign information center." He added that despite the imminent withdrawal of the [Rene] "De Leon" followers from his party, the DCG remains strong.

"Our party continues to be strong, and my nomination is receiving strong support from the people in various departments," Cabrera added.

However, according to a recent poll, the results of which were released by the Free Enterprise Chamber, it is important to note that the strongest party in the country is the Union of the National Center, UCN, which has nominated Jorge Carpio as its presidential candidate.

Moreover, those polled, who know the strength of the UCN, are certain that Jorge Carpio and the UCN will win the general elections that will be held during the last quarter of 1990.

Cerezo Denies Attack on Presidential Farm

PA0802024290 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1230 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] On 6 February President Vinicio Cerezo stated we are about to recoup the debt owed to INDE [National Institute of Electrification] because of failures in the Chipchoy adduction tunnel. The debt is going to be recouped because the insurance company has intervened and the company that constructed the tunnel will have to pay 240 million quetzales through the local insurance company. However, President Cerezo Arevalo said the amount will actually be paid by German insurance companies.

Using a rural colloquial saying, President Cerezo said if the rebels had attacked the Santo Tomas farm, they would have been butchered. But, he said, they were not so foolish as to take this action. Cerezo added that in reality, no attempts were made to attack the presidential farm. Furthermore, he stated, no one on the farm noticed anything. There was an [word indistinct] by ambassadors, and he was playing tennis when he got the news. Cerezo said rebels started to stop vehicles and tell passengers they were going to take Santo Tomas farm. He noted that this had scared people and they started to call by telephone to find out what had happened. Nothing happened, he said. San Tomas security did leave the farm to check on the situation, but it was all a false alarm—everything was quiet.

President Cerezo also said the government has almost located Leonel Sisnega [former presidential candidate, suspected of involvement in coup attempt]. However, he added, we want to confirm our information to be able to make him return to the country to answer the charges against him.

On another matter, the president said it is not true that weapons were stolen from the presidential guards. They

[not further identified] only attacked and stole a van that contained equipment such as belts, canteens, and uniforms. He added, however, that all the stolen items have been recovered.

Army Officer Reports Clashes With Rebels

PA0802003390 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez, head of the Army's Information and Press Department, yesterday reported that a soldier and about eight rebels were killed in actions carried out by the guerrillas 2-4 February in Sacatepequez and Esquintla.

He added that soldier Anibal Garcia was killed during a clash between military patrols and rebel columns after the subversives stopped the transit of vehicles at kilometer 40.5 of the road to the Pacific coast area, in Palin Jurisdiction, Escuintla, where the rebels killed a civilian. About five rebels were killed.

Isaacs Rodriguez said the rebels sustained six to eight casualties because on 2 February at noon, the Army clashed with a rebel column at El Volcan farm, Sacatepequez, and, according to the neighbors, the subversives carried away some of their—possibly dead—comrades. He added that during the 3 February clash in Palin, about five rebels were killed.

Isaacs said that in Pastores, Sacatepequez, a female guerrilla was found dead. She probably died during a skirmish after the rebels arrived at this hamlet.

Col. Isaacs said the number of rebels does not exceed 25. If the group were bigger, the rebels would not be implementing the usual strategy, because as soon as they detect military presence, they flee, he added.

Isaacs Rodriguez denied reports saying the state-owned farm Santo Tomas had been attacked by the rebels. The incidents took place at nearby farms about 12 km from Santo Tomas farm, he added.

Editorial Criticizes Meddling in Murder Case

PA0802032790 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 24 Jan 90 p 9

[Editorial: "The Crime of Oqueli and Gilda Flores, an Internal Problem"]

[Text] A Socialist International mission, made up of prominent leaders of that organization, arrived in the country on 23 January to "demand" that the Guatemalan Government conduct an exhaustive investigation into the murder of Salvadoran opposition leader Hector Oqueli Colindres and Guatemalan Gilda Flores. Their kidnapping and subsequent murder took place in our country and thus, Guatemalan authorities, without any kind of meddling, should solve this case. Guatemalan courts of justice have the duty to request, as part of the investigation, the testimonies of witnesses and conclusions of experts involved in the case. According to Guatemalan law, there is a period allotted for initial investigations during which no public statements can be made or pressures exerted that might hamper the course of justice.

This is why the fact that a delegation—which is made up of respectable people who deserve our admiration, not only because of their outstanding political virtues, but also because of their honest behavior as citizens—is coming to "demand" that our authorities investigate the crime, as if they were not already officially doing so, is to a certain extent hampering justice. It happens that the illustrious visitors came here with the evident goal of accusing the alleged authors of the double crime. In public statements, they have already said that "forces of the Guatemalan and Salvadoran extreme right" murdered them. These statements are as uncalled for as those uttered by President Cristiani in El Salvador when he said the murderers of the six UCA [Central American University] Jesuits were FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrillas—a statement he was later forced to retract, when the investigations revealed that members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces carried out the murder.

In the face of domestic and international pressure, and the comdemnation of the brutal murder of the social democratic leaders, President Cerezo decided to establish an investigative commission to which he plans to add a representative of an international organization. On 23 January, the socialist delegate who is in the country (without naming it) clearly referred to a legally registered Guatemalan political party, which enjoys full political rights, as the "nanny" party of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, of El Salvador. He is levelling serious charges, which could even create legal and political conflicts between Guatemala and El Salvador, by insisting the crime was politically motivated, which seems to be evident, and by linking the crime to political parties of the two countries. With the due respect that the presidential commission deserves, the Supreme Court of Justice should be consulted about what should be done next, because the case is under the purview of Guatemalan courts, especially those in Jutiapa jurisdiction. Those courts should be the ones tasked with collecting the evidence, issuing the summons, and making the necessary statements. Anything else constitutes interfering with justice. In this regard, the fact that President Cerezo is guessing about who might be the author of this repudiable bloody murder is inappropriate, because it is not his duty to do so, even if the socialists threaten to seek condemnation against Guatemala at the United Nations for the violations of human rights that are looming over his government.

Honduras

Callejas Opposed to Permanent U.S. Bases

PA0702225990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas today said he will not negotiate with the United States on the establishment of permanent military bases in Honduras and described the reduction in U.S. economic aid as "worrisome."

In statements to the press in San Pedro Sula, 240 km north of Tegucigalpa, the president emphatically said: "We are not willing to establish permanent U.S. military bases in our territory; that is a very clear position in our foreign policy."

"We are not going to negotiate permanent U.S. military bases in Honduras. We have established that the government has the option to continue military exercises when it is advisable for our country, either for reasons of security or to train our troops," he added. The president indicated that the U.S. military presence will be "temporary" and subject to Honduras' decision.

Since 1982, the United States has permanently maintained 1,200 troops in Honduras, which are replaced every three or four months and participate in military exercises and maneuvers with Honduran troops.

"I want to be very clear," the president reiterated, "so there will be no misinterpretations or disinformation, and to preclude statements that are not based on this position: There will be no negotiations concerning the presence of U.S. troops on permanent bases in our territory."

Referring to the reduction in U.S. military and economic aid from $185.5 million to $133.6 million, Callejas said it "is worrisome, but perhaps this is a good time, within the general framwork of the crisis, to remember that we cannot be so dependent on U.S. aid." He stressed that the U.S. aid is and will continue to be important "because Honduras does not have sources of dollars, is ineligible to obtain funds from international financial organizations, and is in arrears in its debt payments to countries around the world, with the exception of Nicaragua, which has outstanding debts with us."

"I wish we could transfer Nicaragua's outstanding debts (from the sale of electricity) to the IMF, but that is not possible. The IMF has to be paid in dollars," the president said. He added that Honduras must produce a positive flow of foreign exchange and that the cut in U.S. economic aid makes it "very difficult and critical for us."

Callejas stressed that Hondurans cannot continue to be dependent on U.S. funds to improve the national economy, and that the use of U.S. dollars for the balance of payments is inconsistent with a stable economy and the possibilities of growth. As a solution, the president said cuts must be made in the public sector and in the sectors that depend on the U.S. dollar.

Legislators Demand Payment for Airport Usage

PA0802021890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1807 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Feb (DPA)—A controversy has arisen in Honduras regarding the use of the military airport in Palmerola by U.S. troops, after several government officials and deputies demanded that the United States pay a certain amount of money to continue using the facility. The Palmerola airport is located some 80 km from Tegucigalpa.

Vice President Jacobo Hernandez had proposed that in response to the cut in U.S. aid to Honduras by over $45 million, the authorities should prevent their use of the Palmerola Airport and turn it into both a civilian and a military terminal.

[Words indistinct] was built with U.S. aid in the early 1980's in the framework of the joint military operations between the U.S. and Honduran Armies. It currently serves as a base for the task force "Bravo," with 1,200 troops coming from the U.S. Southern Command based in Panama.

U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Crescencio Arcos responded to the Honduran position by pointing out that it is up to the government of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas to decide if the airport should be used as a civilian and military airport.

Groups that are opposed to the U.S. presence in Honduras are constantly reporting that the U.S. forces maintain an intelligence network at the Palmerola Air Base. They also report that U.S. planes take off from the Palmerola runways for Nicaragua and El Salvador to gather information that can help the contras in their operations against the Sandinist Army, and in the Salvadoran case, to provide information on the positions of the guerrillas to the Salvadoran Army.

Arcos defended the presence of the U.S. troops at the base by saying that they represent an economic benefit of $47 million for Honduras in addition to the food and fuel they consume, but noted that under the present terms, they are not paying for the use of the airport.

Nicaragua

Assembly President Comments on Pardon Bill

PA0702195390 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] On 7 Febraury the Nicaraguan National Assembly will debate a bill to pardon some 1,186 prisoners. Of these, 993 are in prison, 14 are under house arrest, five

are out on bail, 16 are on parole, and 114 have been released with special permits. [numbers as heard] Assembly President Commander Carlos Nunez said some parties have already begun to make manipulative use of the bill.

[Nunez] "Today various politicians are already making statements, some because of personal interest, and others because they are trying to win the vote of the relatives by saying that they arranged for this pardon."

A heated discussion is expected. Some people feel the deputies of the MAP-ML [Marxist Leninist Peoples Action Movement] will oppose the bill, and that the Democratic Conservatives and Social Christians will request pardons for others they believe to be political prisoners.

Commander Nunez said the pardon process will have three important phases.

[Nunez] "If it is necessary to remain in session until midnight to approve these pardons, we will do so. Second, on 8 February the written and broadcast media will carry these pardons to make them legally valid. Third, on 9 February, or no later than 10 February—initially I understand that it will be 9 February—they will be turned over to their relatives here in Managua and throughout the country."

Commander Nunez did not rule out the possibility of negotiated agreements within the assembly after the 25 February elections.

[Nunez] "To the extent that there is greater support for laws on the part of the assembly members, and that there is a more in-depth study, a high-level debate, a constructive discussion in which we maintain our ideological differences—after all, why not—there will be negotiation among the parties. This is no crime among politicians. We are speaking of civilized negotiation. I believe it will be possible in this way to reach agreements within the assembly regarding the content of the most important laws we will discuss, debate, and approve over the next 6 years.

"Another form of reaching agreements on these basic, important laws—which are an extension of the basic charter of the Republic, an extension of the Constitution—would be to have opposing political parties participate in a consultation, or for them to participate with Sandinist assembly members in another kind of consultation.

"It is my understanding that in a state branch such as the assembly, there can be differences of opinion and disagreements, as well as agreement. To the extent that laws are approved with a maximum consensus, therein lies the strength of the assembly, the strength of the law, and the authority of the respective organization to enforce the law."

Assembly Passes Bill

PA0702211890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2022 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 7 Feb (DPA)—The Nicaraguan parliament has granted a pardon to 1,190 prisoners, including the 39 former officers of the Somozist National Guard who did not benefit from the pardon that was approved by the government during the early months of 1989.

The amnesty proposal, made by President Daniel Ortega, resulted in heated debates in the National Assembly, which openly discussed the crimes committed by several former members of the army led by the overthrown dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Liberal Deputy Saturnino Pereira pointed out the crimes committed by several former officers of the Somozist National Guard, such as the case of Orlando Felipe Hislop Mercado, who tortured present Commander Doris Tijerino and other prisoners. Most of those prisoners had been sentenced to 30 years in jail.

The proposal was approved with 76 votes in favor and 4 opposed. The four votes opposed were cast by two FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and two opposition legislators: one from the Marxist-Leninist Party and one from the Liberal Party.

National Assembly President Carlos Nunez announced that the 1,190 prisoners will be set free on 9 February.

National Assembly spokesmen told DPA that in the 10 years of revolutionary government, nearly 4,000 prisoners have been pardoned by procedures in the amnesty laws.

Contras Oust Bermudez; Galeano New Contra Chief

PA0702143390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The contra staff ousted former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez for good yesterday by unanimously abolishing the post of general commander that Bermudez held.

In a brief communique released yesterday, the contra military leaders said they met on 5 February, when they made the decision by consensus. The new contra leader is Israel Galeano, alias Commander Franklin, who was the chief of staff and was backed by Commanders (?Dale), Douglas, Paz, Ruben, and Emiliano.

Bermudez' general headquarters did not report any reaction to Bermudez' removal as head of the contra leaders headquartered in Honduras.

Bermudez Rejects Decision

PA0802044490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0359 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Feb (DPA)—Colonel Enrique Bermudez Varela has rejected the contra commanders'

decision to oust him as military chief of the Sandinist [as received] organization and added that he does not recognize the authority of Commander "Franklin" (Israel Galeano) as the Nicaraguan Resistance's new military chief.

It was rumored in contra circles that commanders who are staff members had ousted Col. Bermudez as their top military leader, a position he had held since the contras inception, because of the crisis facing the organization.

Commander 380, as Bermudez used be known within the Sandinist [as received] organization, admitted that the council of commanders had met and then sent him a note conveying their decision to relieve him of his duties as commanding general. However, Bermudez said that he has not yet received this note, which was issued in Yamales, El Paraiso, in eastern Honduras, where the contras' camps and more than 12,000 armed men are located.

Bermudez Varela said the measure violated the internal procedures of the contras, because the high command loyal to "Franklin" called the commanders and gave them their own version, without permitting him to express his opinion.

The former contra commander said he was concerned about the decision because of its internal repercussions in Nicaragua, especially a few days before the Nicaraguan elections, and in the anti-Sandinist organization.

Col. Bermudez Varela said that at this time, the Nicaraguan civic and military opposition should be united and coherent, and should try to get the people to go to the polls on 25 February to oust the Sandinists.

UNO Leaders 'Engaged in a Boxing Match'

PA0602171690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Two UNO [National Opposition Union] leaders—Antonio Lacayo, who is directing the party's campaign; and Jaime Bonilla, who is Virgilio Godoy's right-hand man—engaged in a boxing match in the best professional style and later hid to avoid having to explain the shameful scene they created in Posoltega.

Mauricio Aleman, who works in UNO's publicity office and who witnessed the incident, said Bonilla started the fight in which Antonio Lacayo came out the loser.

UNO Political Council member Eli Altamirano was also on the platform, which served as a boxing ring for the two fighters. He demanded better treatment for Godoy, whom he defends fervently, because Godoy is not an ordinary person.

[Begin Altamirano recording] I do not believe our colleagues who were organizing things in Posoltega stopped to think; they incorrectly criticized Godoy for standing in front. Godoy is not an ordinary person. He is not an activist. He is a member of the presidential ticket with Dona Violeta. [end recording]

Andres Zuniga, who is also a member of UNO Political Council, admitted that there are serious disputes among the council's leaders and claimed that all are new at this job.

[Begin Zuniga recording] There are certain frictions. We will not deny it. We must understand that UNO's political campaign is made up of political leaders, whereas the campaign committee is more administrative in nature. Therefore, there is a certain lack of coordination and understanding about this. Even though there have been certain incidents, this does not necessarily mean there is no longer unity withing the UNO. [end recording]

UNO Council Member Discusses Unity, Rifts

PA0702220190 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Interview with National Opposition Union, UNO, Political Council member Andres Zuniga by Javier Reyes in Managua on 6 February—recorded]

[Text] [Reyes] Earlier in this newscast we had a report on events that occurred yesterday, 5 February, during a UNO rally. We recall that we talked with Eli Altamirano, a member of the alliance's political council, less than a week ago. He told us that UNO was strongly united and the next day the newspaper LA PRENSA published a document that all the UNO leaders signed to celebrate that unity. Nevertheless, Dr. Andres Zuniga—a member of UNO's Political Council, we might add—what we saw yesterday was not exactly an example of that unity. What do you think is happening within UNO?

[Zuniga] First, thank you for the invitation. I remember the interview with Eli Altamirano, my political colleague within UNO. He said there were certain disputes because it is difficult to achieve complete unity among 14 organizations when we are just getting to know each other. We have yet to conclude the examination and recognition phase, yet I believe UNO's unity is firm. We do not deny a certain friction, but we must understand that UNO's Political Council consists of political leaders—whereas the campaign committee has a more administrative nature. Naturally, there are certain problems, perhaps caused by a lack of coordination and understanding, but this does not mean that UNO's unity will end as a result.

[Reyes] Is it a fact that not only administrative issues are at stake, but also individual plans, money, and certain leaders who have been swept aside?

[Zuniga] Yes, the situation could possibly involve these issues, but the conviction shared by the most important UNO leaders, meaning the presidents and secretaries general, is firm, despite personal ambitions. It will not undermine our unity.

[Reyes] How will this affect the elections? I mean, incidents like this must cause some impact among UNO activists. What are you doing to preclude such incidents or to provide an explanation?

[Zuniga] These things have been a normal occurrence in our political culture throughout the years and we will progressively overcome them. Time will pass and I believe the problem will end with measures that we decide on to put a stop to it. We are definitely not perfect and this is part of the political situation we have experienced for many years. During the newscast, you referred to the ethics and democracy issue and said this is a culture we have acquired over the years. I call it a culture and orgy of war and violence that we have experienced for almost four centuries.

[Reyes] By the way, Dr. Zuniga, you are currently discussing forming a unity bloc within UNO. What is the status of the discussions?

[Zuniga] The liberal factions within UNO, meaning the Liberal Constitutionalist Party [PLC], the Independent Liberal Party [PLI], and the Neo-Liberal Party, PALI-...[changes thought] It was a PALI initiative because that has been our thesis since the party was founded. It is based on two objectives—the unity of all political ideologies and civic-political education. We began by issuing an appeal to all the liberal leaders. Every Monday we meet at a different house, on a rotating basis, and we are quickly achieving progress in this process. We have to admit that this is like an examination and recognition process, but we are slowly overcoming ideological disputes. We believe that shortly we will be fully united.

[Reyes] A personal question for Andres Zuniga, as president of a UNO party and a member of UNO Political Council. Are you prepared for UNO's defeat, Andres Zuniga?

[Zuniga] I believe the current electoral process in Nicaragua is quite even and strong. Anyone can win and anyone can lose, though I want UNO to win—and I think we will win.

[Reyes] In other words, you are prepared?

[Zuniga] I am prepared. I see no reason to embark on a confrontational process. We have to accept defeat if we lose, but we must try not to be the opposition just because that is our conviction. We must try to collaborate and cooperate, provided that whoever wins—in this case the Sandinist National Liberation Front—has the option....[corrects himself] has the political will to find a solution to overcome this deplorable and chaotic economic situation.

[Reyes] Thank you, Dr. Andres Zuniga, for your time.

Assembly's Nunez Views UNO's Internal Problems

PA0802021390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is monitoring with great concern the many contradictions among UNO [National Opposition Union] leaders, because a collapse of that alliance before the elections would hurt the electoral process, National Assembly President Carlos Nunez has said.

Nunez, who is also an FSLN candidate for deputy in Region Two, said that UNO is not the option for change or democracy in Nicaragua and that the opposition political parties already realize this. The revolutionary leader also commented on the consequences for the country of implementation of the disturbance plan [Plan Disturbio] by UNO:

[Begin recording] [Nunez] In a (?previous) interview, I told you that I believe UNO is a time bomb, that its leaders have not been able to reconcile their differences. They have been plagued by authoritarianism, a desire to stand out, and personal quarrels. In the political arena, their problems stem from a confrontation between the groups headed by Mrs. Violeta Chamorro and Dr. Virgilio Godoy.

As 25 February draws closer, contradictions are emerging and I believe that if they had an honest, patriotic, and real concern for the country—instead of resolving their internal struggles in public and washing their dirty linen before their few sympathizers—I propose [word indistinct] the electoral process, because if, as Nicaraguans, they are not interested in ensuring the honesty of the electoral process and do not hope the best candidate will win—I believe the proper thing for them to do would be to wash their laundry, but also to try to strengthen the electoral process and not give reasons to the enemies of the revolution in their attempts to discredit this event that is so important to achieving peace in Nicaragua and to putting an end to the war.

[Reporter] UNO has said over and over again that they have already won the elections. It has been said that a group within UNO has said they will not recognize a triumph of Sandinism. What do you believe might happen after the elections?

[Nunez] After the elections [word indistinct] the media—both liberal and conservative—are beginning to realize that UNO is not a real alternative that can defeat the FSLN, and has never been. In addition, they have realized that it is not a real alternative to ending the war and achieving peace for Nicaragua. I believe this is terribly important and must be taken into consideration.

I would also like [word indistinct] to bear in mind the following: What will be the consequences of the recent confrontation and demonstration of violence between Antonio Lacayo—Violeta Barrios' campaign manager—and the head of Godoy's team [words indistinct] member of the Political Council? Yesterday's statement

by Ali Altamirano [secretary general of the Communist Party of Nicaragua], Zuniga [not further identified], and others create uncertainty because we remember the behavior, unexpected attitudes, and careless or ill-intentioned actions [word indistinct] of 1984. What will happen over the next few days? Will those two candidates make an effort to act with maturity and assume their candidacies with responsibility, and try to iron out their differences? Will Godoy assume obsessive, authoritarian, and arbitrary positions, as in 1984?

It is not only a matter of solving differences between two people. It is a matter of preserving the electoral process, of not hindering the electoral process, of candidates acting in a responsible way. In my opinion, neither Bonilla—whom I understand is a candidate for legislator—nor Antonio Lacayo, who is not a candidate but a campaign manager, acted responsibly. Their conduct did not strengthen their candidates or help the electoral process. On the contrary, those actions affect the electoral process.

Some people may say we should be happy with this incident. However, this is not the case. We must act responsibly and bear in mind that the enemies of the FSLN, the enemies of the revolution, would like to hinder the electoral process and the elections to claim that there was fraud, that the elections were no good, and that the only way to achieve democracy in Nicaragua is through war.

[Reporter] Commander, there have been rumors here about a possible implementation of a plan to encourage protests in Nicaragua. The main objective of that plan would be to discredit the elections and create a situation similar to the one during the elections in Panama. What do you know about this?

[Nunez] Anything can happen in politics. In view of the recent experiences we have heard about, it is elementary that the government as such is responsible, in addition to providing all the necessary guarantees for a clean electoral process and for the free movement of all the observers, for preserving public order. I said this is elementary because we first learned about incidents in Panama following the elections, then in Venezuela where there were street riots a few days after President Carlos Andres Perez assumed power, and then the intervention in Panama, which was a more drastic, dramatic, and savage action.

Based on all the activities carried out by the U.S. Embassy through parties and other people during the past few months, we would not be a bit surprised if they tried to promote protests in an attempt to discredit the electoral process. We would not be surprised if individuals who are opposed to the revolution and paid by politicians who do not accept their defeat, should try to create problems. Whether we have taken measures in this regard is not something to be discussed during an interview, and certainly it is up to the corresponding authorities in the revolutionary government.

[Reporter] One last question, Commander. UNO is saying that the pardon announced by the president was late, and that what Nicaragua needs is total amnesty in order for a reconciliation to occur. What are your comments on this?

[Nunez] We will never expect recognition or praise from UNO or from the ultrarightist groups in our country, or from their [word indistinct] or their spokesmen. If we ever receive any praise from them we will lose points among the population. The truth is that it was a joint decision, which was discussed with His Eminence Cardinal Obando y Bravo. We have used the pardon before and this time we did not want to make an exception by granting an amnesty that could result in a bigger problem. We are not asking the relatives of those who were pardoned to thank us.

Some people are asking: Why pardon and not amnesty? The National Assembly has always granted pardons. We in the National Assembly, and I believe the president of the Republic as well, have not wanted to detract from the pardon policy, which pardons the sentence, but not the crime. The prisoners who will benefit in this case do not have any special characteristics that entitle them to amnesty. [end recording]

Contra 'Internal Front' Issues Communique

PA0802002090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1548 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 7 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua's internal resistance movement (the "Armed Contras") distributed a communique today, the first such communique issued in Managua. In the communique, it accuses the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], the ruling party, of "hindering" the electoral process that will end with elections on 25 February.

According to this internal front of the contras, the Sandinists are hindering the electoral process by pressuring the peasants in the mountains and remote areas in Nicaragua.

"The Sandinist soldiers are confiscating the peasants' identification cards, which enable them to vote in the elections, and are scheduling military operations to take place just prior to the elections," the communique charges.

The communique is signed for the "Nicaraguan Internal Resistance" by Commanders "Nelson," "Negro," "Carlos," and "Confite," who head the contras' north and central fronts.

3 Feb Press Review on Election Campaign

PA0702220890

[Editorial Report] The Sandinist National Liberation Front—FSLN—newspaper BARRICADA, on pages 1 and 5, carries a report on President Daniel Ortega's and Vice President Sergio Ramirez' election campaign visit

to Jinotega, no date given. The report notes that "30,000 Jinotega residents" welcomed the candidates and provided the "largest show of support given so far to the FSLN to win the 25 February elections." BARRICADA adds that "U.S. Embassy 'observers,' who had arrived in the city early to find a place from which to watch the event, saw the large crowd of FSLN supporters, who will achieve victory on 25 February, and were shocked."

Referring to Ortega's speech, BARRICADA says "the FSLN presidential candidate described the presence of U.S. Embassy officials as positive and invited them to the speakers' platform so they could better see the strong and real popular support of the FSLN. " BARRICADA adds that "at the conclusion of the almost two-hour long event, the people remained where they were. They did not want to miss the opportunity to greet or have their picture taken with Daniel and Sergio. This extended a demonstration that seemed endless."

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, on pages 1 and 8, features a report on the expressions of support that in the morning of 2 February "thousands of peasants" from several Chontales Department towns awarded National Opposition Union—UNO—presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. The report notes that in Los Chinamos, Mrs. Chamorro said that "after 25 February, the soldiers on patrol in nearby hills will be able to come down and go home to their families." The newspaper reports that as the UNO caravan entered the town of Juigalpa, thousands of townspeople marched with it along the city streets. This made a local resident exclaim: "This lady really has the support of many people."

BARRICADA carries on page 2 an abridged report on the 1 January killing of U.S. nun Maureen Courtney and Nicaraguan nun Teresa Rosales Dixon and excerpts of related newspaper and news agency items. Under the subhead "The Shameless Slander," BARRICADA reproduces a 4 January Managua-datelined AFP report published by LA PRENSA, which quotes UNO Vice Presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy as saying that "the circumstances in which the crime took place point to the Sandinists as the people who killed the two nuns."

Under the subhead "The Evidence," BARRICADA carries a 27 January Hamburg DPA article with a Washington dateline that cites an Americas Watch report that "the contra unit that ambushed the truck did not have the intention to attack the nuns who died, and another nun and a bishop who were traveling in it and who were wounded, but opened fire on the vehicle probably because it looked like those used by the government."

Under the subhead "The Crime Reaches the White House," BARRICADA carries a 28 January letter to U.S. President George Bush from "Richard Gephardt, William Gray, David Obey, David Bonior, and 84 other congressmen," noting that "all the evidence leads to the conclusion that a contra band is responsible for this unwarranted attack."

On pages 1 and 4, LA PRENSA reports that during the past two weeks "acid was poured on a piece of our radiophoto equipment," adding that "a computer that stores all the results of the polls carried out by LA PRENSA was also stolen." This is evidence that FSLN forces have begun resorting to this kind of intimidation tactic." The newspaper notes: "Both actions were carried out during the past 2 weeks and sophisticated methods were used."

* UNO To Challenge FSLN Victory

90EM0085B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Jan 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] The first candidate for deputy of the Social Christian alliance, Dr Julio Ramon Garcia Vilchez, said that whereas the watchword of the Democratic Coordinator in 1984 was abstention, the watchword of the coalition taking its place today is to participate in the electoral process "with a view towards discrediting it and charging fraud."

In this regard he said that the UNO [National Opposition Union] would foment a social destabilization "that could encourage the United States to intervene in our country."

"It is for this reason that the cockiness that the UNO has been displaying must be viewed with great caution, because in one way or another such cockiness points to the smoke screen that is going to be created on 25 February, in the sense that the UNO is going to claim fraud and try to Panamanianize the process...." he added.

He noted that President Daniel Ortega's assessment that the UNO is going to withdraw is mistaken, because their intention is to take part so that they can challenge the outcome if it goes against them, "and of course we're going to get into a situation of anarchy that will not help the electoral process or the political process in general."

A Nobody

After indicating that to them the UNO is a nobody because the Social Christians' main opponent is the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], he noted that this party does not represent an answer for the country, nor does the ultraconservative coalition.

In the event that the FSLN should win, he said, the American stance would not change; the counterrevolution could reemerge, and the war may again intensify. The logical upshot would be the same sort of economic problems that we have been suffering from up to now, and the crisis would worsen.

"If the UNO wins," he said, "they say that they're going to end inflation in 15 days, confident that the United States would inject a large amount of dollars to lift up the country's economy.

"But whether the United States does so remains to be seen," he added. "In the unlikely event that they do win, they would represent a docile government for the Americans, and the social chaos would remain the same."

Setting up Death Squads

Garcia Vilchez even underscored that if "unfortunately the UNO should win, we would have a right wing creating death squads and creating the sort of situation that has developed in El Salvador."

He indicated that his party could score a surprise next month and that it has become the country's number two political force. He also has confidence in the international observers, from ONUVEN [UN Observer Mission for Verification of Elections in Nicaragua], the OAS, and the Carter Mission alike.

"We are confident that they will issue an impartial judgment on the results of the election," he noted.

The Conservatives

The conservatives who support the presidential candidacy of Dr Eduardo Molina say that fraud is almost impossible on 25 February owing to the number of international observers, the monitors, and the mechanisms spelled out in the Electoral Law itself.

Sergio Torres Ogregario, who is currently a deputy for the Democratic Conservative Party (PCD), noted that a ballot is counted as soon as it is handed to a voter.

Fewer ballots could wind up in the box, in the event that voters do not hand them back in or make off with them, but there will never be extra ballots.

When the ballots are tallied, they will be separated by party, and after that each JRV [Vote Collection Board] will draw up a sheet to show how many votes each party got.

Tally sheets will be drawn up at each polling place. The monitors will inform their main and regional headquarters of the number of votes at that JRV, and the votes will be computerized.

Torres said that in order for there to be a large enough fraud to tip the scale in the final tally, each JRV, which handles an average of 300 voters, would have to steal almost 100 votes.

"That would necessarily involve all of the officers of the JRV's, 1,000 officers, 5,000 accomplices to such fraud, plus the monitors. It would be practically impossible to keep it secret among so many people," he said.

He stated that his party would have monitors at most JRV's and that it does not hold the UNO view that if it does not have a monitor at a polling place, the result is not valid.

"Two or three opposition monitors would be enough to assure the credibility of the tally," he indicated, after noting that they trust the UNO monitors because the union has a conservative majority.

"Our feeling is that only conservatives can vouch for conservative votes. Perhaps the UNO is using this guideline. We feel that each of us will defend the transparency of these elections."

"Now then, if the UNO people challenge a JRV because they have no monitor there, they alone will be to blame for not providing one."

The PCD has been hard at work in recent days training the people who will act as monitors. The training workshops in Somoto and Madriz will graduate 160 monitors this weekend.

Torres also called attention to the harm that some "boorish FSLN cadres" are doing to the electoral process by threatening militant Greens and hampering their efforts.

Blackmailers

The Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) yesterday accused UNO leaders of blackmail because they had said that if their coalition does not win the election, it would be because there was fraud.

As for the UNO believing that only its monitors can guarantee clean elections, Tamariz said that such an assessment reflected a messianic view, because the UNO people regard themselves as the one true and divine opposition.

The assistant secretary general of the PUCA [Central American Unionist Party], Bernardino Rodriguez, said that by claiming that the other parties' monitors at the JRV's have no validity, the UNO is just looking for a pretext to claim that the boards are not playing fair.

He indicated that his party is going to put monitors at most JRV's, to which end it has held many workshops.

Blackmail and Mercenary Behavior Confirmed

Managua (ANN)—The pro-U.S. National Opposition Union will not recognize a Sandinist victory at the elections on 25 February if "by this week at the latest" it does not receive $1.5 million in American "aid," it was learned yesterday.

The UNO campaign manager, Antonio Lacayo, declared that of total funding of $9 million that Washington has approved for the coalition, $1.5 million is supposed to go to an organization called the Institute for the Promotion and Counting of the Vote, which belongs to none other than the opposition leaders. This money has not yet been disbursed by the Nicaraguan financial authorities in charge of receiving money from overseas.

Lacayo, who avoided mentioning a series of bureaucratic snags that have held up the funds in the United States, as American sources disclosed in recent days, blamed the Nicaraguan Government for "delaying the delivery of

legitimate money" that he said would go to pay the UNO's monitors at regional JRV's during the February elections.

Last week the Nicaraguan Government explained that although the UNO was requesting the money sent by the White House, the organizations in charge of sending down the money in the United States had not yet made the corresponding deposits to make the bank transfers.

In spite of this, the Central Bank of Nicaragua decided on Friday to "lend" UNO close to $1.5 million as an "advance," even though there were not yet funds in the United States to cover such an "unusual loan."

Antonio Lacayo insisted yesterday, however, that the Nicaraguan Government is to blame for the delays, and he openly threatened that "unless we have the money in our hands this week, on 25 February we will recognize only a triumph of the UNO, not a triumph of the Sandinists."

The UNO campaign manager belittled the presence of almost 3,000 international observers, including 500 from the UN and OAS, by implying that his party would accept only the judgment of its own monitors, who are paid with U.S. money.

Withdrawal Always Possible

Rio de Janeiro (PL)—The United States is preparing the withdrawal of the opposition candidate, Violeta Barrios, from the Nicaraguan elections and is seeking to demoralize voters, as it did in 1984, the newspaper TRIBUNA DA IMPRENTA cautioned yesterday.

The nationally circulated Rio newspaper warned of Washington's intent to have Barrios withdraw as the candidate of the rightist UNO, citing health reasons.

The Americans came to have high hopes that Violeta Barrios would defeat President Daniel Ortega and they thus sent millions of dollars to finance her proselytizing campaign, the newspaper notes.

They realize now, however, that Bush's candidate will be defeated by the Sandinists.

* Sandinist Front Official on 1990 Budget

90EM0069B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Dec 89 p 3

[Interview with Minister of Planning Alejandro Martinez Cuenca by unidentified reporter; date and place not given; first six paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] In an interview with BARRICADA, Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, minister of planning, declared that the success in curbing inflation and the 32-percent increase in exports have been made possible by the people's confidence in the prospects for peace and by the effective management of the adjustments policy sponsored by the government.

He emphasized: "We are now in a position to aspire to economic growth, but we must maintain the policy of using the country's resources more efficiently and making our investments more productive."

The minister called upon private investors to become more committed to the current policies, noting that, for this purpose, a broad and flexible framework must be provided for business owners wishing to invest, similar to the conditions offered to foreign investment.

He stressed: "The national coordination must continue based on a change in the mentality that the state should act as a 'daddy' toward the productive sectors, placing more responsibility on individuals, their efficiency, and their own initiative."

When asked about the sectors that might be privatized, he cited domestic and foreign trade areas associated with production and export of nontraditional goods, "which demand flexibility and contacts that cannot be achieved with a slow, bureaucratic apparatus."

Elsewhere in the interview the minister discussed the social tensions from the Adjustments Plan, reiterating the government's decision to recover the salary level in the government sector, giving priority to the execution of social programs such as those for health and education, and care for the disabled.

[BARRICADA] What challenge did it represent to cut inflation from 30,000 to 1,500 percent?

[Cuenca] Primarily, it meant acknowledging the importance of demanding more efficiency of us in spending and, at the same time, fostering a real stimulus for exports, without losing sight of our limitations.

On the one hand, these limitations existed in human resources capable of adapting to change and, on the other, in the instability inherent in launching forth into this impetus without clear-cut backing from all the productive sectors.

Furthermore, we needed sufficient external resources to ease the impact of a new logic on the economy; but these proved insufficient throughout the year, generating contradictions and additional tensions for the plan.

[BARRICADA] How did the government succeed in harmonizing the efforts of the institutions and the productive sectors in the anti-inflationary battle?

[Cuenca] All sectors of the economy were aware of the importance of reversing an economic strategy directed toward the country's defense to another offensive one that would start seeking stabilization, so as to aspire later to growth.

This understanding was a deciding factor. The policy of the revolution during the early years was aggressive in the social area, extending to the majory the benefits that had been denied them historically. The high growth rates

achieved in the mid-1970's, in fact, only projected their benefits to the oligarchical group supporting the dictatorship.

Recognizing Our Potential

When the aggression became intensified, the economic policies were geared to preserving defense, while attempting to maintain social gains. This was, unquestionably, am ambitious goal that prompted us to protect the population in the midst of a stricken economy on the defensive.

The shift in the economy resulting from the Adjustments Plan was interpreted at that time not merely as a strictly economic action, but rather as stemming from the situation that started with the signing of the Esquipulas Accord and the proximity of peace. This phase has enabled us to consider the recovery of the economy for the first time.

Furthermore, the international political situation itself has demonstrated that the ideas of a Marshall Plan in Central America are rather utopian, and that the solutions must really be constructed internally, without denying the importance of international cooperation.

This was a fundamental element for the government: to recognize our great potential, and admit that more could be accomplished with the imports plan that we had and, similarly, that we could be more efficient in our investments.

[BARRICADA] What did this latter point entail in the government's management?

[Cuenca] The adjustments policy led us to a more rational use of our meager resources, which has been reflected primarily in the handling of credit and investments. For example, whereas before, with a number of credits totaling 100, we had a product of -8, now, with 50 credits, our gross domestic product has become -3. In 1988 we imported 807 million and exported 235 million, whereas in 1989 we are importing 710 million and will export 295 million. In other words, with fewer resources we are producing more.

As for investments, in 1988 we spent 23 percent of the national product on investments, and production declined to -8; whereas, this year, the investment index was 13 percent and the decline -3.

More Savings and Productivity

This proves that there is extensive space for internal adjustments, and we must pursue the line of achieving more with less, fostering internal savings and productivity both from credit and investments.

[BARRICADA] How was an impetus for exports and a 35 percent-increase achieved in a single year?

[Cuenca] In the first place, with a realistic and flexible exchange policy, which prompted many producers to aim their activity toward exports; but also with the effort for coordination, which prompted rapprochement between the government and producers. It spurred them in their activity, seeking together with them the solutions to the problems that were cropping up during that cycle.

Nevertheless, I would like to stress that the space that has been given to the productive agents should promote an attitude among them of being active contributors, and not just passive recipients of growth.

There must be a change in the mentality that everything is a gift, and that the state should act like a "daddy." More responsibility for the economy must fall upon individuals, their efficiency, their work discipline, and their own investment initiative.

[BARRICADA] What will the focus of the credit policy be next year? This seems to have been the area of greatest conflict with the country's producers....

[Cuenca] The tensions related to credit were concentrated first on high interest rates, and next on the insufficiency of the amounts. In fact, producers will always try to make credit as cheap and as abundant as possible. It is the state's policy to acknowledge this logic but, at the same time, to make certain that our total economic measures are directed toward the goals that we are seeking.

Credits To Produce More

We must prevent credits from being allocated for speculation rather than production growth. In this regard, the decentralization of banks could ensure greater efficiency in credit administration, with an effect on the most unprotected sectors, but without offering a generalized type of coverage. Decentralized banking will make it possible to decide more clearly to whom loans are to be granted and under what terms, linking this decision to the real productive situation.

[BARRICADA] And what role will the state play in an economic growth strategy?

[Cuenca] The concept that the state must be involved in everything conflicts with an economic policy strategy such as the one that is being promoted. In agricultural-livestock development, for example, the cooperative movement will be supreme. Therefore, it must be provided with management and productive capacity based on the notion that small and medium-sized rural property owners will make important decisions in the context of overall policies and will have an obvious effect on rural development.

[BARRICADA] Will there be a tendency toward greater privatization in the economy?

[Cuenca] This issue has been considered a myth, and I don't think that the situation is black and white, as if the private sector were incompatible with a strong state. There are areas in which private management could be

more effective: in domestic trade, and agricultural-livestock or industrial enterprises. In domestic trade there could be privatization of certain imports, in which the private sector could have a more dynamic and effective management. It could also occur in the area of nontraditional production and export.

Discussion of the Private Sector's Role

Nevertheless, the state must keep control of the massive imports of strategic components or large volume exports, for which prices are critical.

I hold the opinion that the discussion should be opened, and more responsibility should be given to the productive agent in marketing nontraditional goods or small-scale marketing. The world is changing, and flexibility is required, as well as contacts, which cannot be made with a slow, bureaucratic apparatus.

[BARRICADA] On what does the success of the economic plan for 1990 depend?

[Cuenca] The trend in international prices of our main products will have an influence, as will the progress of the productive effort, which has now almost materialized, because the decisions on planting are being made a year in advance.

Recovery Is a Task for Everyone

The decline in coffee prices will have a heavy impact on foreign currency income, and will assail the recovery capacity of traditional exports. We estimate that next year this recovery will be 16 percent, compared with 35 percent this year.

We also expect a 3.3-percent recovery in the gross domestic product, as a minimum, because we must admit that the GDP has declined for 3 consecutive years.

To make this possible it will be necessary to maintain the policy of curbing prices and aspiring to single-digit inflation levels after May, with a cumulative rate not exceeding 60 percent for the rest of the year.

To fulfill these objectives it will be essential to obtain the external funds that have already been negotiated, and to achieve a possible rise in the level of international cooperation with Nicaragua.

[BARRICADA] What role should private investment play in the economy's reactivation?

[Cuenca] A decisive role, for which purpose it must be given the broad, flexible framework that it needs. This means having facilities like those to be given to foreign investment, and establishing a guarantee framework in which the private sector would operate.

Clear Commitments

I believe that commitments must be made between business owners and workers, defining their respective roles in the economy, and aimed at raising production and guaranteeing work discipline and respect for property.

[BARRICADA] What are the mistakes in the implementation of the 1989 plan that must not be repeated in 1990?

[Cuenca] We cannot actually claim that everything has been perfect. One of the mistakes was thinking that national coordination could be achieved by making concessions only on one side.

The government made them at Olof Palme. It remitted debts that represented additional pressures on the economy. I think that we should consider eliminating remissions of debts as a practice, and convert them into an element for compromise.

On the other hand, I think that we should avoid sudden moves such as the ones that we made during June in the exchange rate, because they have negative repercussions on the stabilization plan.

Finally, we must expend greater effort to ensure that the guidelines devised can be executed. We must recognize in advance the limitations that we have and the need to react positively toward changes. The productive sector must act with confidence toward a future that we are all building; and this means maintaining an active role in the economy.

More Productive Investments

[BARRICADA] Will there be a shift in the state's investments?

[Cuenca] The shift will occur by reversing the trend of having a high proportion of capital with a low productivity level. The investments made in the agroindustrial and agricultural areas must be made more productive, without depending on the state. If they want to expand their capacity, they can negotiate loans in the international community.

New investments have been planned in sectors such as energy, telecommunications, roadway systems construction, and social programs, such as self-constructed housing.

[BARRICADA] How will the social impact of the measures be eased next year? Will salaries be leveled?

[Cuenca] The program for 1990 calls for a gradual recovery of the salary level in the budgeted sector, particularly among health and education workers; because the productive enterprises have been adjusting their salaries, sometimes showing a great discrepancy with those of state workers.

As for social programs, priority will be given to the literacy campaign, to education, to the child life protection programs, and to improvements in public water, light, and sewerage services.

I would like to note that, in its latest report, ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America] indicates that the country with the most investment in social spending after Cuba and Costa Rica is Nicaragua, even with its policy of adjustments and the limitations imposed by a long war.

Country To Be Divided Into Departments

PA0702153590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] After the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] undisputed victory in the 25 February elections, the government will again divide the country into departments, President Daniel Ortega said in Juigalpa yesterday during a rally attended by a large number of people to conclude his presidential campaign in Chontales.

Ortega said that during the 10 years of the revolution, Nicaragua was divided into regions for the country's defense in view of the U.S. aggression, but that once peace is achieved, the country's division into regions can no longer be justified.

U.S. Businessmen Visit, Meet With Ortega

PA0702152190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] In what could be considered the first indication of the normalization of economic relations between Nicaragua and the United States, a group of U.S. businessmen interested in Nicaragua's economic situation visited the country last night.

The members of the group, called the Young Businessmen's Organization, come from several states. According to the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, their visit indicates that investment will follow once the U.S. economic embargo against Nicaragua is lifted.

The 24-member delegation met last night with President Daniel Ortega, who told them Nicaragua is willing to cooperate with the United States on economic development projects. Planning Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca described the U.S. executives' visit as a preliminary contact between the two nations for establishing economic relations.

Former Contra Says 2,000 Peasants Held Prisoner

PA0702121690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 February 90 pp 2, 8

[Report by Martha M. Gonzalez from Esteli Department]

[Text] Former contra Jose Santiago Peralta Cruz, who deserted from the Jose Trinidad Poveda Battalion, commanded by contra leader Giovanny, said that over 2,000 abducted people are being held prisoner in the counterrevolutionary jails located in the Yamales military base in Honduras. Peralta Cruz said the kidnapped people long for their freedom and want to go back to their homes, "but because of the terror and pressure to which they are subject, they do not dare attempt to escape."

Peralta Cruz stated that many of those who have been kidnapped have had to pretend they agree with the contra movement to avoid getting murdered. If a one disagrees with the contras, one either disappears or experiences brutal punishment."

The former contra said the 100 cooperative members who were recently kidnapped in Limay were taken to the base in Yamales tied up. "The contras watch them day and night in one of the jails. They have been tortured and are isolated."

Jose Santiago Peralta Cruz was kidnapped in Wiwili in February 1989. He stayed at the base in Yamales for 1 year. Peralta Cruz was born in Tatasli, Jalapa. He, along with Jose Augusto Herrera Herrera, who was born in Jinotega Department, deserted the contra movement and took advantage of the Nicaraguan amnesty law.

Peralta Cruz and Herrera confirmed the close links between the contra movement and UNO [National Opposition Union] because—according to them—in the camp of Yamales the C-5 or the politicians of the contra battalions told them: "We must work hard to make Mrs. Violeta win the elections because we will be the army of domination."

Both Peralta and Herrera said the chiefs of the contra battalions often send men to the interior of Nicaragua and their mission is "to convince the peasants to vote for UNO. If you find Sandinist Front followers who oppose your wishes, advise them, pressure them, and if that does not work, make them pay.

Contra leader Mario Sebastian Chavez, born in Diriamba and who is said to be in charge of counterintelligence duties and a member of the contra movement general staff, joined the demobilization plan at the border post of Las Manos, Nueva Segovia Department at 1100 on Friday, 2 February.

Former contra leader Chavez was received by OAS, ONUVEN [UN Observer Mission for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua], and ACNUR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] observers at Las Manos. The observers presented the former contra leader to Interior Minister Chief Gerardo Alvarado. Alvarado issued Chavez his safe-conduct, restoring him all his rights and guarantees.

Panama

Foreign Minister on U.S. Pressure, Treaty

PA0802011290 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2339 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said this afternoon that the United States is not pressuring

Panama. He was explaining the position of the government headed by President Guillermo Endara regarding the international community.

[Begin recording] [Linares] Panama's position is very clear. We do not need to prove our legitimacy to anyone. President Endara is a legitimate and legal president because of the reasons I have explained so often. He won the elections by a large majority, perhaps by a margin that is much greater than most of the current Latin American presidents. His victory was recognized by the same electoral tribunal that annulled the elections. It is an electoral tribunal that was not appointed by President Guillermo Endara, and it has been in operation since the previous regime.

[Reporter] The Americans, however, have reiterated holding a plebiscite.

[Linares] No one can prevent them from reiterating their suggestions. We also have the right to act independently, because we are a sovereign and independent country. If tomorrow the Panamanian Government considers it necessary—and this is a hypothetical situation—to hold a plebiscite, then we will hold it, but it will be a sovereign act of Panama, and not because we are being pressured by anyone.

The neutrality treaty should remain in effect after the year 2000, but I am the first to say that this treaty should be revised because, unfortunately, the kind of neutrality that is mentioned in the treaty does not favor our nation. [end recording]

Noriega Allegedly Initiated Supreme Court Case

PA0702194090 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 1A

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] In 1988, deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega ordered the Attorney General's Office to bring a legal case parallel to the one initiated against him on drug trafficking charges by the U.S. Justice Department. Later, the Panamanian Supreme Court of Justice dismissed the case in his favor.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, who elaborated on the case, said that the judges of the Supreme Court of Justice should be "tried" by the Legislative Assembly for this "legal monstrosity," because it was "absurd" for them to collaborate with the "shameless tyrant" Noriega.

According to Cruz, Noriega's intention in the process—which was kept "hidden and secret"— was to present the dismissal of the case before U.S. justice so he could claim that he had already been tried and acquitted in Panama for the same charges, and that no one can be tried twice under the same charges.

Cruz gave EL PANAMA AMERICA a copy of the case brought by former Attorney General Carlos Villalaz, based on a slander suit filed by Noriega in February 1988 after drug trafficking charges were filed against him in the United States, which was the basis for the Supreme Court's decision.

According to Cruz, the "absurdity" of the situation was that instead of investigating the party charged with slander, former Attorney General Villalaz proceeded to investigate Noriega and other Panamanians whose names were mentioned in the "indictment" [preceding word in English] for drug trafficking, among them Colonel Luis Del Cid, Enrique Pretelt—currently under arrest in Miami—and Ameth Paredes.

During his interrogation, Noriega, who was then the Panamanian strongman, said that all the charges were "false and part of a general U.S. Government campaign mounted against him for his nationalistic and patriotic stance."

Noriega also denied alleged links with the Medellin Cartel or that Cuban President Fidel Castro mediated in a confrontation between him and Colombian drug traffickers in 1984.

Noriega reiterated the thesis that Washington filed the charges against him because of his refusal to allow Panamanian territory to be used to carry out sabotage actions and a planned invasion of Nicaragua.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz explained that the documents on the Noriega case were filed without haste on 24 August 1989 [as published], apparently with the intention of including in the preliminary proceedings all the drug trafficking charges then existing against the military leader.

The documents of former Attorney General Carlos Villalaz were later sent to the Supreme Court, the members of which, "in a hasty and unusual manner," pronounced "a hurried" judgment in favor of the alleged victim five days later, when they should have pronounced themselves against or in favor of the person accused of slandering Noriega.

Cruz, claiming he knew very little about U.S. criminal law, "doubted whether the legal monstrosity had any value" for U.S. courts, adding that in Panama, "nothing else could be done, and not even the Supreme Court itself could annul a sentence, because they are final, definite, and compulsory."

The opinion was signed by former judges Marisol Reyes de Vasquez, Dilio Arcia, Rafael Dominguez, Manuel Jose Calvo, Gustavo Escobar, Enrique Bernabe Perez, Isidro Vega, and Jerry Wilson. Judge Rodrigo Molina abstained.

Charges Brought Against Noriega Family

PA0702201290 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1714 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Report by Leonel Blaidsdell—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Charges against former General Manuel Antonio Noriega's wife, Mrs. Felicidad Sieiro, and his three daughters, Sandra, Thays, and Lorena, were presented at the Fifth Municipal Court, it was revealed by lawyer Argentina Barrera de Ortega, who is in charge of that judicial office. She also mentioned the possibility of an arrest warrant against 32 journalists identified with the Noriega regime for crimes described in the Penal Code.

Referring to the charges against Mrs. Noriega and her three daughters, the judicial official said:

[Ortega] "This office has received some case files. We will begin with the one involving Mrs. Felicidad Sieiro de Noriega and her daughters, Thays Noriega Sieiro, Sandra Noriega Sieiro, and Lorena Noriega Sieiro. They have been charged with complicity and the use of illegally acquired possessions. These charges were filed by Mr. Reilly Sierra Goytia. I should mention that this case file is now at the municipal court so it can be used in setting the amount of bail, as has been requested."

Argentina Barrera de Ortega also revealed other details on the case.

[Ortega] "This court will take the appropriate steps."

[Blaidsdell] "What is the punishment, as stipulated in the Penal Code, if these charges are proven?"

[Ortega] " Article 363 of the National Penal Code states that the sentence, if the charges are proven, is a prison term ranging from one to two years."

The names of journalists linked to Manuel Noriega's regime—including Escolastico Calvo, Julio Ortega, Nestor de Icaza, Baltazar Aizpurua, and Vladimir Hernandez—also appear in a criminal charges dossier.

[Ortega] "Juan Martidiu filed criminal charges against 32 persons, whose names I will now read: Zelideth Rosales, Euclides Corro, Jose Anel Urriola, Luis Restrepo, Mario Augusto Rodriguez, Alberto Barrera, Ricardo Lince, Justo Arroyo, Jorge Ramirez, Escolastivo Calvo, Baltazar Aizpurua, Carlos Francisco Changmarin, Ramon Ashby, Vladimir Hernandez, Luis (Toty) Suarez, Ramiro Vasquez Chambonnet, Daniel Monte Blanco, Margarita Sevillano, Carlos Nunez, Ruben Dario Murgas, Danilo Caballero, Andres Vega, Jose Zamora, Julio Ortega, Nestor de Icaza, Carlos Garcia, Mario Rognoni, Balbino Macias, Luis Manuel Martinez Blanco, Erich Rodriguez, Rigoberto Paredes, Antonio Graell, Buenaventura Donato, and Euclides Fuentes Arroyo.

"The charges, as I said before, were filed at the Attorney General's Office, but they were later sent to the court and subsequently assigned to the municipal court."

Permission for U.S. Inspection of Ship Confirmed

PA0702212290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Panama has told the United Nations that it authorized the United States to board and inspect the Hermann—a Panamanian-registered vessel based in Cuba carrying a Cuban crew—because it was suspected that the ship was carrying drugs.

At the United Nations, Panama also distributed a communique from the Finance and Treasury Ministry's General Consular and Ships Directorate saying that the United States had been authorized to inspect the Hermann on 30 January, when it was sailing in international waters on its way to Mexico. The crew resisted the U.S. inspection and U.S. ships proceeded to shell the vessel.

For this reason, Cuba called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council.

Arias Calderon Comments on Nuncio's Statement

PA0702222390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Interview with First Vice President Arias Calderon by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Arias Calderon] I am simply referring to the idea or opinion, no matter who expresed it, that we have gone from one dictatorship to another. I think that this opinion simply does not correspond to reality, and determining the truth is really what counts.

First of all, we now have a judicial branch, including both the Supreme Court and the Attorney General's Office, which acts independently of the executive branch. Their initiatives are based on the Constitution, and this is not the case in a dictatorship. A dictatorship controlled the judicial branch until 20 December.

In addition, all opinions and criticisms, including the opinion that we are moving from one dictatorship to another, can be freely expressed in our country, without any fear.

[Reporter] What is being done to provide the new Public Force with the necessary equipment?

[Arias] We are doing everything we can to achieve three things which we deem as absolutely necessary for the National Police, which is the main component of the Public Force, to do their job: 1) They must have uniforms; 2) we are trying to get them communications equipment so they can contact their bases; and 3) we are trying to get them vehicles so they can patrol the streets and therefore respond quickly to any calls for assistance.

[Reporter] What is the government's position regarding the carnival celebration?

[Arias] This subject was discussed at the last Cabinet meeting, where it was unanimously agreed that there will be no official support for carnival festivities. All of the government's attention must be centered on reconstructing our country, and all national resources must be used to create new jobs. Furthermore, our people's

security is one of our main concerns at present. Therefore, any activity is secondary to maintaining a climate of peace and tranquillity in freedom.

Legislator Favors 'Reconciliation With Justice'

PA0802040190 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Interview with Revolutionary Democratic Party, PRD, Legislator-elect Mario Rognoni by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rognoni] As we have stated through the party, we are going to be part of the peaceful democratic political opposition that is emerging in the country. However, we are enormously worried about the political persecution that has been unleashed, the fact that the party is not being allowed to hold meetings, and that its leaders are not being allowed to participate in such meetings. We are concerned about the last measure announced by the Attorney General's Office to file lawsuits against almost 90 PRD leadership members, simply to deprive them of their freedom and to prevent them from holding meetings and taking action.

We believe that these measures are not contributing to President Endara's efforts to demonstrate that he wants a democratic government that respects freedom.

[Reporter] What is your opinion on the embezzlement perpetrated by the military men during their rule and the charges being made against the Attorney General's Office?

[Rognoni] The military men were not the only ones who stole from the Treasury; civilians also stole. We are the first to denounce and cooperate in whatever way possible to ensure that these people are brought to trial. We never sponsored any crimes.

[Reporter] Did you agree with the creation of the Dignity Battalions and the Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity [CODEPADI] to repress public workers and the Panamanian people who struggled for a return to freedom?

[Rognoni] Listen, I must admit that although we disagreed with the creation of these groups, and we have stated this in the past, we understood why there was a need to create the Dignity Battalions and the CODEPADI. However, we disagreed with the decision to arm people, because we anticipated the dangers that could result from this situation.

[Reporter] Your name, representing the PRD, is on the list of legislators-elect. However, some of the media have recently said that there are serious charges involving you.

[Rognoni] Any legal challenges filed against me will be legally answered. My mind is at ease.

Journalist Files Suit Against Former Minister

PA0802001690 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Journalist and former legislator Omaira Correa has filed an embezzlement suit against Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque at the Prosecutor General's Office.

[Begin recording] [Correa] I am hereby filing a criminal suit involving a $158 million embezzlement action that must be investigated. According to an audit report by the Comptroller General's Office, this amount, which was part of the amount allocated for housing projects handled by the Mortgage Bank and the Housing Ministry, disappeared between 1973 and 1986.

I am hereby filing a criminal suit against Duque because he was housing minister during this period. The comptroller general's audit report clearly reveals the loss of these resources, which have be used for homes for the country's poorest. No receipts, invoices, or any vouchers indicating the proper use of these funds have been found. This considerable amount, $158 million, could be used to provide homes for thousands of Panamanians. [end recording]

Prosecutor General Rogelio Cruz declined to comment at this time.

Action Movement Rejects Legitimacy of CED

PA0702233190 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 10-A

[Statement issued by the Action Movement, a university student wing of the Popular Action Party, in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] The Action Movement wishes to note a number of points about the university's reality:

As nationalists, we oppose the presence of U.S. troops in Panama, especially their violation of the university's autonomy. However, we also wish to express the disagreement of most student sectors with statements made by those who call themselves the Law Students Center (CED), which denounce the presence of American troops at our university.

Although we strongly condemn the prolonged occupation of our campus by Yankee troops, we cannot accept as valid the demands made by those who cannot defend national sovereignty, since they opposed the popular sovereignty expressed through the ballot boxes. Those individuals are, in many cases, opposed to popular aspirations, while living off public funds.

They did not bother to denounce the former Defense Forces as the murderers of law student Luis Antonio Gonzalez Santamaria, and time and again they closed their eyes to the political reality the nation was experiencing under the military dictatorship.

We also wish to clarify that they do not have the political and legal authority to make these charges, because they

are not legitimately the CED since they were illegitimately imposed through rigged and fraudulent elections. The winning group on that occasion was the Action Movement, and if anyone doubts there was fraud, we still have the proof we presented. That proof was not even taken into account by the university's authorities because they too supported the regime.

It is unforgivable that, despite this, the illegitimate CED has unilaterally lengthened its term in student government in complicity with some antidemocratic authorities of the University of Panama. Thus, it cannot be recognized by any authority.

Because of the above reasons, we believe that the CED has no legitimate leadership and that only the students' General Assembly may speak in the name of the law students.

Paramilitary Group Threatens Radio Soberana

PA0802003590 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 13

[Report by Carmen L. Boyd Marciacq]

[Text] Paramilitary men headed by Gaspar "Toty" Suarez have threatened to "take over" Radio Soberana Civilista, which is owned by Alonso "Bucho" Pinzon and was managed by Suarez during the Noriega regime.

A number of listeners of the station, however, have said they will guard the station to prevent any attack against it, the owners, or the employees. On instructions from Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president and minister of Government and Justice, two Public Force members have been assigned to watch for any suspicious activities near the station.

We expect the perpetrators to be caught any time now and punished for creating confusion in Panama, one of the station's employees said.

Recruitment of Civilians for Police Work Urged

PA0802010290 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 4

[From the "Improvisations" column by Alfredo Icaza: "Military Briefs"]

[Text] I cannot understand why the current government has not yet called for a census to determine which of us informed citizens are willing to form and be recruited into a civilian police which would participate in all types of police work throughout the neighborhoods, streets, and avenues of Panama City. These citizens, well armed and organized into the appropriate groups, would help tremendously in the pacification of our capital city.

At my age, I for one would not not mind undergoing training, particularly in the proper usage of all types of weapons.

Just as the Noriega regime trained and armed a legion of outlaws of the worst kind, the Ministry of the Government should train and arm honest citizens who are willing to cooperate, so that law and order can be restored soon.

Night watches should be left in the hands of Panamanians as soon as possible. Vehicles other than those of the Panamanian police should not be seen on our streets; after the carnivals, good-by to the U.S. forces! Panamanians, both male and female, should take over patrolling and guard work and be willing to cooperate with government authorities. Minister Arias Calderon has the final word.

In addition, and being realistic, there are able men with military training in Panama who can contribute effectively and competently toward the success of this civilian police. One of these men is Colonel Fred Boyd, who has great experience and leadership ability. Not only that, he should be the commander of the new Panamanian police force.

Before leaving, the Yankees could cooperate by leaving us their trucks and other equipment for the working, well-trained police organization.

This year, it is our duty to create a civic organization to the best of our ability. This organization, however, would be trained in and become familiar with all military operations. After all, poor civic-mindedness could be worse than a militarism which is impervious to bribery and Noriega-like actions. Civic-mindedness will always aspire to deep and noble patriotism.

Column Suggests Way To Alleviate Public Debt

PA0802000490 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 1

[From the "As of Today" column]

[Text] Figures released by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic indicate that the National Bank of Panama granted the central government an overdraft of over 900 million balboas. The funds used to finance such a monstrous overdraft came in part from deposits made by decentralized government agencies (605 million), while the rest came from other sources. Meanwhile, the National Bank, like other banks based in the republic, has issued Certificates of Deposit (CEDIS), at the request of clients whose time deposits have been frozen, and these CEDIS must be honored on their respective expiration dates. In view of this situation, when the government implements its announced plan of privatizing some state enterprises that are operating at a deficit, it could well announce that it will accept, as partial payment for the enterprises put up for auction, a certain proportion in CEDIS issued by the National Bank. These could then be used to pay off a part of the government's obligations to the bank. By this simple mechanism, the sale of state enterprises would be greatly facilitated; the government would reduce the amount of its overdraft with the National Bank; and the bank would not need to use cash to redeem the CEDIS that are used in these transactions. Similar mechanisms could be used with the tax credit certificates and other legally negotiable documents that represent credits against the Treasury. This would reduce the public debt to some extent without affecting the administration's precarious level of liquidity.

Argentina

Menem on Economy, Criticism of Government

PY0702193290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1540 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Feb (NA)—President Carlos Menem today confirmed that "the exchange market will continue to be free," thus rejecting the possibility of a government-controlled exchange market. He also announced that the 30,000-austral advance payment assigned to the state-owned companies "will not be deducted from salaries and will be considered a fixed sum that is not part of the salary."

Menem also admitted that changes in the defense law are being studied, although he did not wish to go into details until there is "more definite news" about it.

Menem announced that Eduardo Bauza, public health and social action minister, will sue Justicialist Deputy Luis Saadi over his charges regarding the distribution of solidarity bonuses.

Menem said the economic situation "is rather good" and that the British Labor Party congressmen he met yesterday were "surprised at the measures we adopted on the issue."

"Mrs. Thatcher adopted the same measures, but in three or four years, and everyone was patient with her," Menem said. He confirmed that "there is no alternative plan because there is only one possible path and we are following it."

Menem made these remarks this morning in an informal talk with journalists accredited to Government House. He is accustomed to paying unexpected visits to the pressroom where he holds this type of talk with the journalists.

Asked about reports on the economic situation mentioning a serious shortage, particularly of foodstuffs, Menem explained that "after hyperinflation, there is always a shortage and recession." He said the country is going through "the critical period that precedes a definitive economic recovery."

Asked about the influence of the collection of VAT [value added tax] on basic staples, Menem lashed out at the "speculative attitude of some businessmen," and warned: "Although the people are used to this type of speculation, there will be a point at which the people will no longer tolerate it."

He said that before the VAT was collected on all products, "a 15-percent tax was paid on some 70 percent of the products tax. After VAT was implemented, this percentage went down two points but prices continued to go up."

Regarding salaries, Menem said "salaries are no longer the adjustment variable," because now "salary increases are higher than the increases in public utility rates."

He said: "There has not been a real increase in the price of public services because this increase has been lower than the last two months' inflation rate." He admitted, however, that "there has been a nominal increase."

Talking about businessmen, Menem said he is "disillusioned" with "businessmen in general, not only with the Bunge and Born Group." He explained that "they have had a virgin country with whic to work and they did not take advantage of the opportunity."

"As we promised during our electoral campaign, the business sector was given responsibilty for the economy, but it is evident the sector's policies did not yield the expected results."

He also criticized "the wealthy businessmen who have poor enterprises," because "they use their enterprises to get rich and not to increase production." He pointed out that his administration has decided to "put an end to this evil policy."

During the talk with the journalists, which lasted 45 minutes, Menem admitted that "modifications to the defense law are being studied," but he preferred not to go into details before having more "precise news" on the issue.

Menem also commented on Justicialist Deputy Luis Saadi's harsh criticism of government officials, and he announced that Eduard Bauza, public health and social action minister "will sue the deputy and open a criminal trial against him."

"Catamarca cannot have this type of representative," Menem said. He added that Saadi's attitudes "go against the congressional hierarchy."

Menem said Saadi's criticism has "revengeful characteristics, because it mixes matters that have nothing in common, such as the distribution of the solidarity bonuses and Italo Luder's resignation."

Rejecting the possibility of a governing pact with the Radical Party, Menem said "those who were elected to govern the country are the ones who must do it. The opposition can accompany, criticize, and make suggestions to the goverment, but it cannot govern the country."

He did not want to engage in polemics with Raul Alfonsin, who criticized his way of facing the task of governing the country. Menem said: "It was not Viceroy Cisneros [former Spanish viceroy] who brought me to power."

Regarding constitutional reform, he said "the Justicialist Party has the charisma of a reforming party." He pointed out, however, that the reform "does not include a modification of the presidential system of government."

He said he supports the "reduction of the presidential term to four years, the possibility of reelection, and the elimination of the electoral boards."

Admits Decline in Popularity

PY0702141090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] President Carlos Menem has just expressed disappointment over his government's alliance with the Bunge & Born group, and admitted that he has lost popularity but not credibility.

In a television program, he said he expects to be reelected when his office term ends. It would be hypocritical, he said, if I denied I was disappointed with the Bunge & Born group. He added that he had given businessmen a magnificent opportunity to help govern but that they had not responded as we all expected.

In the television program "New Times," Menem recognized he has lost popularity and that there is a risk of losing even more. He added that he has not lost credibility because the people believe in the government proposal for change, for a different Argentina.

The chief of state indicated that there was a surplus in the National Treasury accounts in January and reiterated that during the first three or four months of this year public expenditure will be reduced by 30 percent. He then asked the people to wait 40-45 days for confirmation. He added that the state does not manage the price of the dollar and denied that it rises from lack of confidence in government policy. Menem recalled that on 1 January 1990 the dollar price was the same as it is today.

Menem listed what has been accomplished through this proposal of change and noted the climate of freedom in which the government does not manipulate the media, the privatizations, and the reestablishment of relations with Great Britain. As for the current level of inflation, he said we would have three or four easy months and then begin to feel the effects of the hyperinflation period we had before he assumed power. He added that the government is trying to curb this inflationary process.

Menem indicated that the Solidarity Bond is a circumstantial response to the poverty he inherited, and affirmed that to the extent it can stabilize the economy, the Solidarity Bond will be phased out as the (Yankai) plan is implemented. (Yankai) is a Quechua word meaning "to help make work."

Meets British Airways Director

PY0702150690 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] President Carlos Menem has received Lord King of Wartnaby, the chairman of the board of directors of British Airways. They agreed that it is necessary to expand the services of the British company to Argentina, noting that this would speed up the resumption of commercial relations.

Today, at Government House, Menem and the head of the British company considered the company's investment plans in the country, as well as the possibilities for future bilateral trade.

Dollar Rate Surpasses 3,000-Austral Mark

PY0702134490 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1245 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Feb (DYN)—Today the dollar rate surpassed the 3,000-austral mark. Following the escalation of the dollar rate over the past two days, today the dollar rate in the free exchange market stood at 3,010 australes and 3,030 australes for buying and selling respectively.

Yesterday the dollar rate closed at 2,480 australes to the dollar. Today at the opening of the exchange market the dollar was being sold at 2,750 australes to the dollar. This means that the dollar rate experienced a 22.17 percent increase yesterday, while today the dollar rate has experienced a 10.18 percent increase.

Government Raises Salaries of Civil Servants

PY0702200890 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The Executive Branch has authorized a 40-percent increase effective 1 January in the salaries of public servants not covered by collective bargaining. Salaries to be paid as of 1 January, 1 April, 1 June [as heard], and 1 October of this year were established.

Bolivia

More Iturralde Comments Regarding Drug Summit

PY0802013390 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has stated that the government has defined an overall strategy to fight drug trafficking that will be confirmed by President Jaime Paz at the Cartagena summit.

Iturralde also stated that the tight agenda prepared for the meeting of the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and the United States will not allow a great amount of time for expounding ideas and policies; therefore, the governments will have to explain their views very concretely.

The foreign minister remarked that representatives from several of the country's sectors have given their opinion regarding the Cartagena summit. He said it is understandable that the government cannot, for a number of reasons, consider or include them in the agenda.

[Begin Iturralde recording] No, it would not be possible, because in Cartagena the presidents will only have a very few hours to discuss matters. This is why the official delegation is the smallest of the participating countries. [end recording]

Iturralde said that Peruvian President Alan Garcia's proposed modifications to the document approved by

the preparatory meeting in Santa Cruz are being studied by the Bolivian, Colombian, and U.S. Governments.

According to Iturralde the summit has the powers to approve the final document.

Regarding the installation of military units by the Chilean Government in regions bordering Bolivia, the foreign minister said he was sorry that he could not comment on the topic.

[Begin Iturralde recording] I have no comment regarding the Chilean situation. At this time I have no comment. I have said this several times, and it will be this way until I have the opinion of several advisers who are working with me. [end recording]

Central Bank Chairman on Reserves, Expectations

PY0702154690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Central Bank Chairman Raul Boada has reported that Bolivian foreign reserves total $208 million. Boada said this level will allow the Bolivian economy to continue implementing the 1990 economic program.

Boada said imports and exports have enough financial support for the next few months and that the domestic demand for foreign currency will be supported by the daily operations conducted by the Central Bank Bolsin [Central Bank Foreign Trade Department].

The relative delay in payments for the export of Bolivian gas, Boada said, does not endanger our economic stability because our reserves can cover any unforeseen situation.

Regarding the disbursement of new loans by international credit organizations, Boada said that several existing financial cooperation accords will be implemented before the end of March. The Japanese Government, for example, will disburse the first $15 million of a $27-million cooperation program. The IMF will assign a $35-million support loan in March, thus completing the $70-million program scheduled for this period.

Inter-American Development Bank Grants Loan

PY0702172090 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 3

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies will use the $34.68 million loan granted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to implement programs of the Emergency Social Fund.

The interest rate on the 40-year loan will be one percent per year. The disbursement of the loan will be made during the current administration. This loan will be used for urban improvement tasks, construction of schools, improvement of health programs, promotion of rural development, and control of erosion. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Paper Defends 'Rational Development' of Amazon

PY0802024890 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Feb 90 p 4

[Unattributed editorial: "A Fable Is Revived"]

[Text] In opening the Intergovernmental Panel on Climactic Changes sponsored by the UN, President Bush was cautious. He did not anticipate any concrete initiative, although he recognized the seriousness of the phenomenom of overheating of the earth's atmosphere, better known as the greenhouse effect.

Bush must weigh the warnings from the scientific community inside and outside the United States. He cannot shirk his political responsibility regarding a problem—although a remote one—that has been reported by the scientific community, because it is incumbent upon a political leader to prevent a disaster, rather than remedy it later. Bush cannot impede the immediate effect of such warnings by the ecology movements, so many of which originated in the United States.

Neither the U.S. President nor the leader of any other economically advanced nation today dares point his finger at industrial development as the villain in the destruction of the environment, as did the early ecology movements. All those leaders speak for the preservation of nature and the purity of air and water; all of them clamor for the salvation of the planet, but this posture has a trace of hypocrisy. This trace can be found in Bush's cautious announcement and in his reluctance to place any restrictions on the model of civilization that has served the economically advanced nations so well.

That reluctance led to the designation of the Amazon as the new villain. The U.S. Government would like Brazilians to stop the devastation of the Amazon so its forest absorb the carbon dioxide produced mainly by the burning of coal and oil. An intact Amazon would be the tribute Brazil would have to pay for maintaining a model of progress that it has not yet established. Brazil would then pay the world for the damage for which others, from afar, were the principal culprits.

Before shouting devastation, it would be more pertinent and more sincere to discuss with Brazil various options for the rational development of the Amazon. Those who have acquired experience in devastation should have acquired knowledge in rational exploitation of natural resources—at least the knowledge that was acquired through errors, though it was late in being assimilated. This is the right approach. The developed countries have good reasons not to relinquish their model of civilization. These reasons should be valid for the undeveloped countries as well.

Overly narrow is the ecological view that disregards economic and social problems for the sake of a scientifically based conservationism—in fact, a selective conservationism at the service of self-preservation. This view is

overly narrow because it undermines, with its selfishness, the deeper sense of the ecology cause; namely, the solidarity among men that follows from the very idea of man's solidarity with nature.

To isolate the Amazon from Brazil's interests is tantamount to leaving the Brazilians out of the common cause that makes for the nobility of ecology.

Sarney Inaugurates Linear Electron Accelerator

PY0702201890 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] President Sarney has inaugurated, in Sao Jose Dos Campos, the first linear electron accelerator. The Institute of Advanced Studies was in charge of developing the equipment.

Another six accelerators will be built by 1994. The accelerators are part of the national nuclear reactor program.

Chile

Silva Comments on Future Diplomatic Relations

PY0702143490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Future Foreign Minister Silva Cimma has said the country will resume full diplomatic relations with all East European countries and almost certainly with the Soviet Union after Aylwin's inauguration in Valparaiso on 11 March. Silva Cimma said Chile will reestablish relations with Mexico on 20 March.

[Begin recording] [Silva] President Aylwin will receive Chilean national authorities around 1800 on 11 March. At that time the foreign minister will be signing notes to resume relations with East European countries. It is almost certain that we will also resume relations with the Soviet Union.

[Reporter] Will they be at the consular or ambassadorial level?

[Silva] At the ambassadorial level.

[Reporter] What about Mexico?

[Silva] We will resume relations with Mexico around 20 March because the Mexican foreign minister cannot come earlier. [end recording]

Regarding Cuba, Silva Cimma said the country will study the possibility of establishing consular relations first. He added, however, that he expects the problem will be solved before the end of the year.

Silva Cimma also said that nine American presidents, including Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, have confirmed their attendance at the inauguration. The foreign minister designate said five European heads of state, including the Italian and Spanish Prime Ministers Giulio Andreotti and Felipe Gonzalez, respectively, would also attend.

Communist Party Boss Teitelboim Interviewed

PY0802020790 Santiago HOY in Spanish 29 Jan-4 Feb 90 pp 6-8

[Interview with Volodia Teitelboim, secretary general of the Communist Party of Chile, PCCh, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[HOY] In your book "Neruda" there are pictures of letters the poet sent you. He wrote the letters "Val" in them...

[Teitelboim] That means Valentin; that is my name.

[HOY] In other words, Volodia is not your legal name.

[Teitelboim] It is my legal name; it became my legal name. My name is Valentin. I was registered under that name in Chillan, where I was born. When I was 16 years old I entered university and joined the Communist Youth, where I became involved in a game of imitating what the patriots did in 1810; who used nicknames inspired by the French revolution. We also used nicknames. It was a time of illegal actions; therefore, it was necessary. During a meeting at the law school, a fellow student told me: "You should be named Volodia."

I liked it; it was Lenin's nickname. I was then elected president of the law school student body and I was known as Volodia. That lasted a long time, and people thought it was my real name.

Then the party made me a candidate for deputy. Great, I said, the silly name Volodia will come to an end, but I was told I could not change my name because no one knew Valentin. There was a discussion within the party leadership and it was decided my name should be Volodia Valentin. Then the legal change was made. According to the law, I have been Volodia Valentin for 30 years, since 1958 or 1959.

[HOY] In your book "A Prohibited Country", you relate how you entered Chile clandestinely in 1987. How did you look?

[Teitelboim] Much younger. I had beautiful hair, slightly colored. Some women looked at me from a distance. I also had a beard. I looked like a very respectable gentleman who spoke little because the voice can betray you.

[HOY] That was before the 1988 plebiscite and there was a great deal of discussion on whether to participate. How was the PCCh of that time?

[Teitelboim] I found a party that was decisively involved in the struggle in the streets and many people who thought the dictatorship could be overthrown by street fighting. That did not occur. An important sector of the opposition chose the path of dialogue. That choice had to be made through internal discussion because the PCCh is a democratic party and the leadership cannnot change the party's position.

[HOY] But the policy being implemented was not discussed by all the party militants...

[Teitelboim] It was discussed by all the militants of an illegal party. Had it not been that way, it would not have had the passionate support of so many people.

[HOY] However, there are militants who saw that policy as unrealistic.

[Teitelboim] That is another problem. That does not mean it was not discussed. It may have been unrealistic but a sector wanted it that way. It was a large sector, not a minority. There were people who dreamed of winning the freedom to have a democratic government without the need for a pact with Pinochet.

[HOY] When did you make the change? The Communists have always been accused of arriving later than others.

[Teitelboim] What others? We did not arrive late at the plebiscite. The decision was made in May and the plebiscite was in October.

[HOY] There was a delay and the PCCh was the last party to call for a no vote. The militants did not even known if they had to register in the electoral registry.

[Teitelboim] Yes, that did occur, but to say that we arrived late is a sophism. The Communists knew what they had to do in this process. They had to say no to Pinochet.

[HOY] That was not the problem; the problem was whether they would accept the institutional rules that had been imposed.

[Teitelboim] That is right.

[HOY] At that time there was even a group of Communist youths who went on their own.

[Teitelboim] Certainly. Just imagine what it meant for the Communists to accept the fascist institution; that is, to accept the law of henchmen who had murdered their parents and who are responsible for thousands of missing persons. However, that had to be accepted because there was no other way.

[HOY] Do you agree with PAIS [Broad Party of the Socialist Left] president Luis Maira, who said that the left's electoral failure is caused by the insistence of some sectors on "the popular rebellion of the masses," which he considers incompatible with democratic reconstruction.?

[Teitelboim] The policy does not make sense in a democratic government. It is sad, however, to have to admit that our present situation is conditioned; that our Army commander in chief is called Pinochet; that we have to accept the nearly 3,000 laws enacted by the dictatorship—particularly those intended to tie the new government's hands and create a captive democracy.

[HOY] Let us talk about the postelectoral period. The PCCh chose to become legal but was unable to win a seat in Congress.

[Teitelboim] It is something designed by the dictatorship. You have to take the number of people who voted for the PCCh and check what percentage they represent. The PCCh obtained its historic average.

[HOY] Doesn't the PCCh have any responsibility? What self-criticism can you make?

[Teitelboim] We failed to really understand the deep impact that 16 years of dictatorship had on the social psychology of the country. Chile changed because of the controlled mass communications media, particularly television, which was constantly dripping with virulent anticommunism.

[HOY] What would you have done differently had you understood the problem?

[Teitelboim] We would not have changed much. We would have participated in the election anyway, because it was not just any election. For a party persecuted as illegal for 16 years and forced to live in catacombs, it was a real challenge to walk into the poor shantytowns, talk to the people, reestablish links, find the old comrades, and meet new ones we had never seen before.

[HOY] You did not renovate your speech then.

[Teitelboim] The speech I use is very much renovated. I am a person who constantly renovates his speeches. I do not use the stereotype; never the same. I have always been like that.

[HOY] But the PCCh has recognized that it had been espousing mistaken policies in the past few years.

[Teitelboim] We think the PCCh, as all Chilean political parties, needs a very thorough updating. We need to confront reality.

[HOY] Will you have a national conference to debate the issue, as the grassroots have asked?

[Teitelboim] The national conference is a commitment brought about by the 15th PCCh Congress last May. During the congress we said we would have a national conference during 1990.

[HOY] Do you think the conference will bring the party closer to reality? Will that mean a change in PCCh policies?

[Teitelboim] It is an absolute duty. The party will change in all ways that the conference proposes and the party approves.

[HOY] Will you reject the "the rebellion of the masses"?

[Teitelboim] It depends on what you understand by "rebellion of the masses." We will change the name because it does not make much sense in a democratic government. We will continue to support a policy of social change and progress. This is what we call our revolutionary policies.

[HOY] How will the PCCh influence the political decision-making process? It is a fact that you are not part of

the executive or legislative branches. Neither do you have control of the largest labor organizations?

[Teitelboim] I think the main thing will be to democratize the country. You say the party is not strong with workers. That is wrong. We have a quota system that does not help. Nevertheless, the PCCh is strong in most recently elected provincial CUT [United Labor Federation] boards. Communists are the majority in most of Santiago's neighborhood committees. We are not the single force because we have pluralism in Chile. We will work through those social organizations.

[HOY] Are you going to become opposition?

[Teitelboim] No, we will not be in opposition, but we will be constructively independent. We expect we will not have to become opposition. We are strongly in favor of Aylwin's administration.

[HOY] Why are you proposing "constructive independence" instead of "constructive support?" What is the difference between the two proposals?

[Teitelboim] The difference is as follows: Consider the interest we have in seeing the next government succeed. Now, let us suppose that the relations between the Christian Democratic Party, the opposition coalition, the National Renewal [RN], and the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] hinders—in our way of seeing things—possible changes in the name of an agreement with the right. We will not be enthusiastic about it because we prefer a center-left administration and not a center-right administration. Even if we do not take part in it, we will support a center-left administration because it will mean favorable measures for the poorest strata of society.

[HOY] Suppose Aylwin heads a center-right administration; will that mean he has failed to comply with the program of the opposition coalition?

[Teitelboim] No, I do not believe so. Aylwin is not willing to fail to comply with his program, nor to be trapped by the RN or the UDI. Some people may believe it is necessary to reach agreements. In our case, however, we do not discard the possibility of having to reach some agreements as long as they favor democracy in some way.

[HOY] You have mentioned three nonnegotiable issues: the abrogation of the amnesty law, the release of all political prisoners, and the removal of Pinochet as Armed Forces commander in chief.

[Teitelboim] For us these three things are nonnegotiable but they are not Aylwin's commitments. We have the right to make demands, including moral demands.

[HOY] What will happen if Aylwin does not succeed in meeting them?

[Teitelboim] We would not have gotten what we wanted. This does not mean, however, that we would declare war on him.

[HOY] You have also said that if Pinochet continues to be the Armed Forces commander in chief there would be a military power parallel to the civilian power. Based on that premise, would the existence of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) be justifiable? Do you confirm your position in this regard?

[Teitelboim] Why are you asking this old-fashioned question?

[HOY] It is not so old-fashioned. You commented on this topic not so long ago.

[Teitelboim] No, I have not changed my position. This is the position of an advanced party that is not in power. We are entirely anti-Pinochet; we are in favor of releasing all those who fought the dictatorship. We are in favor of truth, justice, and reason.

"But we must get used to the idea that the world is not commanded by us; that there are several different opinions. This is pluralism and we must coexist harmoniously. This is not reason enough to put aside an opinion that has moral importance for us." [quotation marks as published]

[HOY] But do you believe the existence of the FPMR or of a military force would continue to be justifiable?

[Teitelboim] That question would have to be decided by them.

[HOY] The problem is that we ask them this same question and they say they will continue to act. The Autonomous Front [Frente Autonoma]—which says that there has been no split in the FPMR, but only in the Communist Party—asserts that they exist as a result, not of a political decision, but of a decision made by the party's central board. We thus have a branch that maintains its armed struggle and that does not support Aylwin. What is the party's position regarding its historical responsibility?

[Teitelboim] Bad luck. We would have liked to see people who act in the political scenario understand the changes that occur in a country's situation.

[HOY] To change the party's line of action means to change the leadership that adopted an incorrect policy?

[Teitelboim] If the party democratically decides to, we can replace any leadership.

[HOY] Can this be decided in a national meeting?

[Teitleboim] It would have to be decided in a national congress.

[HOY] Why was this possibility rejected when some precincts called for a national congress?

[Teitelboim] Very few. Five of the 800 rank-and-file organizations of Santiago have asked for a congress. You should note this figure because there is a feeling that everyone is asking for a congress.

[HOY] Are Chilean Communists willing to critically revise Marxism-Leninism and even abandon it?

(Teitelboim shows a copy of "Reflections on the Revolution," a document that was published by Czechoslovak magazine PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM.)

[Teitelboim] Our position is reflected by what we say in this document. We want to return to Marxism, the way it was thought by Marx. We want to return to the idea of the revolution, which stemmed from reality, which was dialectic, which could not be bureaucratic. We place particular emphasis on the democratic nature of the Russian revolution, which has been wiped out.

We do not want to reject Marx. What we will never again accept is the dogmatic Stalinist dictate, which does away with freedom and democracy, which persecutes, and which promotes government repression.

[HOY] If the dictatorship of the proletariat is no longer advocated, what will be the new political course?

[Teitelboim] Freedom, democracy, free elections, the will of the people. We believe we will not be able to reach socialism if the majority of the people do not want it.

[HOY] Does that involve centralized planning?

[Teitelboim] Not as a policy of state interventionism that eliminates private initiative. Yet to respect private initiative does not mean to promote wholesale privatization or to promote robbery as is happening now. Today the private sector is seizing the country.

[Reporter] Is the PCCh designing a new program on the basis of this position?

[Teitelboim] Yes. There will be several proposals for the conference to be held in May. At a rank-and-file level, however, the work for the conference will begin very soon. One of the proposals is the design of a new program. The previous program was prepared in 1956, when the local and the international situations were different. Our program should more closely reflect our current situation and should also consider plans for the future. In this regard, the values we have mentioned—such as freedom, democracy, and pluralism—will be incorporated. The program will outline the major guidelines of the socialism that we want for Chile.

FPMR Spokesman Comments on Ties With PCCh

PY0802010490 Santiago HOY in Spanish 29 Jan-4 Feb 90 p 11

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Jorge Salas is the spokesman of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] that is known for its connections with the PCCh. However, he denies this and says it is nonsense from the press since the FPMR faction he represents "is completely independent from the PCCh [Communist Party of Chile]."

He said: During this period we have shared with the PCCh general guidelines and an assessment of the political situation. But the FPMR is an autonomous organization and its decisions are not subject to PCCh approval. They are approved through continous consultation with the FPMR combatants.

Salas admits that the FPMR experienced a schism in 1987. He says: "A group of comrades who held different views and who do not hold the original ideas upheld by the FPMR, withdrew from our organization."

Salas says that the FPMR will continue to struggle until democracy is achieved in Chile. He believes this goal was not achieved in the recent elections.

Salas states: We have a completely repressive institution. The dictator has not surrendered power completely. Therefore, we will not yet dissolve because the people must be able to defend themselves during this period.

The FPMR "Autonomous" faction believes the Salas faction is merely an expression of the party.

Salas adds: "What happened is that the FPMR withdrew from the PCCh. Therefore, it was the PCCh that experienced a schism, not the FPMR. This is why they feign the existence of an FPMR front to hide the schism they experienced.

"We left because we believe the FPMR must continue to be in the vanguard of the struggle for the establishment of a popular democracy representing the masses. This is why the schism issue has been overcome and does not worry us.

Colombia

Ochoa Says Extraditables Regretful, Want Peace

PA0802020790 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] [15-second break in reception] Fabio Ochoa [senior] who yesterday said a representative from the Extraditables should attend the drug summit along with Presidents George Bush and Virgilio Barco Vargas. Referring to the current peace proposal, Fabio Ochoa said that if the Extraditables do not honor the promises they have made, they will deserve quote, to be beheaded, unquote.

[Begin recording] [Ochoa] [10-second break in reception] opportunities, there are opportunities every day, every minute, every hour.

[Reporter] Do you believe drug traffickers are being honest on this occasion?

[Ochoa] They are truly regretful; they want to live with their families; they want peace. I am certain that drug traffickers are acting with honesty. I am completely sure. They are tired of running from one place to another, of hiding, of not living with their families. What do you

want money for if you have to live like that? It would be better for them to be poor but able to live with their families and in tranquillity.

[Reporter] Fabio, do you think this time we can trust them?

[Ochoa] Yes, we can trust them [5-second break in reception] deserve to be beheaded. [end recording]

Two M-19 Leaders Assassinated in Huila

PA0702193390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1755 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The 19 April Movement [M-19] today reported the assassination of two of its leaders in Huila Department. The bodies of the two political leaders were thrown into the Magdalena River.

The guerrilla movement has asked all political groups to exercise tolerance so the current peace process can proceed unhindered.

Police Arrest Two Brothers Sought by U.S.

PA0802020290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] This is a last-minute report. The DIJIN [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations] arrested in Bogota brothers Guido Lucio and Raul Hernan Bucheli Ortiz, charged with distribution of cocaine in various countries and whose extradition has been requested by the United States. This occurred a few minutes ago.

Police Arrest Extraditable Wanted in U.S.

PA0802041790 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Within the past few hours in Barranquilla, the Narcotics Police arrested Rodolfo Donado Suarez, whose extradition has been requested and who has been charged with smuggling 7,300 lbs of cocaine to the United States with his brother Alvaro. Donado Suarez was arrested in 1987 but was released when the extradition treaty was no longer valid. The Extraditable was transferred tp Bogota at daybreak on 24 January and is in custody at one of the DIJIN [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations] jails.

Ecuador

Supreme Court Rejects Annulment of Febres Ruling

PA0802003290 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Supreme Court Secretary Jorge Matos has disclosed that Magistrate Ramiro Larrea, the Court's president, turned down a petition from defendants Leon Febres Cordero, Miguel Orellana, and Mercedes Gomez in a case involving $250,000. The defendants had requested the annulment of a ruling rejecting an appeal for a review of the facts in this case.

[Begin recording] [Matos, in progress] ...the trial against Febres Cordero, two of the defendants were requesting the annulment of the most recent court ruling rejecting their appeal for a review of the facts. A petition from Gomez outlining the appeal was also turned down. Concerning these two documents, the Supreme Court president issued the following ruling at 1000 today:

The documents presented yesterday by defendants Leon Febres Cordero, Miguel Orellana Arenas, and Mercedes Gomez de Lord should be added to this case based on the same legal precepts stated in the 29 January 1990 ruling. The Court hereby turns down the request to annul the ruling in question, a request filed by defendants Febres Cordero and Orellana Arenas, and the petition submitted by Gomez de Lord. The court declared both the appeal and the petition contrary to the law.

This ruling was signed by the Supreme Court president.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Matos] I cannot predict what will happen. [end recording]

Peru

Garcia Seeking Consensus for Antidrug Proposals

PY0702155090 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez has reiterated his intention of attending the Cartagena drug summit on 15 February with his colleagues from the United States, Colombia, and Bolivia.

He requested cooperation from the presidential candidates who will accompany him to the summit and who will present their proposals to fight drug trafficking and replace coca plantations. On this latter point, the Peruvian President noted that there should be consensus because coca plantations occupy more than 200,000 hectares, an area equivalent to that of rice plantations in Peru.

[Begin Garcia recording] As I announced last week, I will attend the summit, considering the announcement by President Bush that U.S. troops will be withdrawn from Panama before the end of February, and the announcement by Vice President Quayle that there will be a plebiscite or elections to legitimize the current Panamanian Government.

There is a consensus in Peru regarding what can be accomplished through a policy of coordination in the struggle against drug trafficking and the illegal cultivation of coca. This important summit, which most likely will not be repeated, I believe to be indispensable to expressing the opinion of the country's political forces and of the candidates who represent them at this time. So, I call on the political forces and their presidential candidates to come forth with their viewpoints on how the Peruvian position should be presented. [end recording]

Foreign Troops in Drug Fight 'Unthinkable'

PY0702162290 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Guillermo Larco Cox has denied the possibility that foreign troops might participate in the fight against drug trafficking.

[Begin Larco Cox recording] The possibility is unthinkable in a democratic regime like our's. We have our Armed Forces, which are professionally capable and have the political support to fight subversion, and we have police forces that valiantly participate in the unequal struggle. [end recording]

Police Wound United Left Presidential Candidate

PA0702214590 Paris AFP in Spanish 2111 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Lima, 7 Feb (AFP)—Henry Pease, the presidential candidate of the United Left, was wounded by buckshot this afternoon by police as he headed for a meeting with Lima residents from downtown. Pease reported this from the editorial room of a local newspaper where he received first aid.

Pease was wounded in his left leg and shoulder. The 44-year-old candidate is recovering at home. His wounds are not serious, it has been reported. Ronato Gibons, another leftist leader, was also wounded.

While at the editorial room of LA REPUBLICA, Pease spoke by telephone with President Alan Garcia and reported what had happened. President Garcia apologized and promised that he would report the incident to the Interior Ministry.

The presidential candidate demanded the resignation of Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla for the "brutal way the police break up popular demonstrations."

A police spokesman has said that Pease and those accompanying him were mistaken for striking Bank of the Nation employees who constantly march around Lima's Plaza de Armas.

Pease, a Catholic University professor, is the leader of the Marxist United Left. According to polls, he is currently supported by between six and 10 percent of the voters in Lima. Observers believe that he has more support in the country's interior.

Interior Ministry Communique

PY0802023290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Henry Pease, presidential candidate for the United Left, was slightly wounded while walking with party members and reporters toward the Campos Azules market.

Pease said that a police officer stopped him and then shot him at close range. He added that four other people, including a reporter from a local daily, were also wounded. Pease was treated by a physician who then allowed him to go home. Henry Pease condemned this event and asked for guarantees of safety for politicians who are participating in the electoral process. [passage omitted]

Regarding this regrettable incident, the Interior Ministry released a communique saying that the police officer's action was excessive, unprofessional, and an abuse of power. Therefore, the Interior Ministry has ordered the dismissal of both the unit commander and the individual directly responsible for the incident. The ministry recommended that the council of superior officers retire the police officer. The Interior Ministry conveyed its sincere apology to Henry Pease and deeply regrets the incident.

Interior Minister Resigns

PA0802031290 Paris AFP in Spanish 0249 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Lima, 7 Feb (AFP)—It was has been officially announced that Peruvian Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla resigned his post tonight as a result of the buckshot attack carried out by the Peruvian police in downtown Lima today against Henry Pease, Peruvian presidential candidate for the United Left.

The United Left, Peru's second electoral force, had demanded Minister Mantilla's resignation of President Alan Garcia. The United Left held Mantilla responsible for the attack on Pease.

Text of Resignation

PY0802104890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1010 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Before sending President Alan Garcia a communique explaining his resignation, Interior Minister Mantilla admitted that the police reaction had been excessive and that they had used a weapon that is expressly forbidden.

As a result of the incident, Minister Mantilla dismissed the commander of the police unit and the major who was directly responsible for the incident.

Here is the text of the communique:

Alan Garcia Perez, constitutional president of the Republic, I come to you to tender my irrevocable resignation as interior minister, a position to which I was honored by your appointment. Over the last few months we have succeeded in establishing an atmosphere of order and tranquillity that will enable us to conduct the electoral process in liberty and democracy, which are characteristics of your administration.

Today's incident, however, in which United Left presidential candidate Dr. Henry Pease Garcia was injured, cannot be justified in any way. This incident, which occurred as I was returning from Pasco Department, has forced me to make this decision. I reassert my continuing loyalty to you and beg you to accept my decision.

Your brotherly collaborator, Maximo Agustin Mantilla Campos.

Navy Captain's Arrest on Drug Charges Ordered

PY0702171490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Excerpt] A warrant for the arrest of former Navy Captain Eduardo Lopez de Castilla was issued today after he failed to report to the Callao provincial court to answer charges of illegal possession of drugs.

Several journalists have been to the Callao provincial court to learn of the arrest and trial of the former captain. Lopez de Castilla was detained a few days ago while in command of the "Eten," a Peruvian Navy ship in which he was transporting more than 200 kg of cocaine hydrochloride. The initial results of the investigations were negative, but after reiterated questioning the captain reported that (Juan Guillermo Justo Cornejo Hualpa) gave him cans of food that contained the drugs. The captain was to have taken the drugs to San Diego, California, where he would have been paid $400,000. [passage omitted]

Two Policemen, Bystander Killed in Tarma

PY0702161890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Two National Police members were killed at 1320 in Tarma, on the second block of (Audry) Avenue beside the Union Tarma stadium. Eyewitnesses have said that four people shot at the policemen from a passing white pickup. The murdered policemen are Corporal Raul Lopez Avila, 31, who was born in Jauja, and Edgar Andres Mancilla, 26, who was born in Piura. Bystander Andrea Mendez, 58, who was waiting for a bus to Chanchamayo, was also killed by the attackers.

Terrorists Kill Four People in Ayacucho

PY0802105990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1609 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Ayacucho (Peru), 7 Feb (EFE)—The Peruvian National Police reported today that Shining Path terrorists today stoned and shot dead three men and a woman whom they charged with having delivered weapons to the so-called "Peasant Defense Patrol," which is a civilian group that receives its arms from the Army.

The police said the bodies were found in a suburb of Ayacucho, 576 km southeast of Lima, and that they showed two bullet wounds and their heads had been crushed with stones.

The terrorists left notes on the bodies. The notes read "this is how those who provide arms die..." and they were signed by the Communist Party of Peru (the official name of the terrorist Shining Path organization) [as received].

The police added that two of the victims have been identified as John Aguilar and Mery Vargas, who were businessmen from Ayacucho, and the third person was identified as Rodolfo Garcez, who studied anthropology at the Ayacucho university.

The sources said these three people were members of a committee that supported the "Peasant Defense Patrol."

Police said the fourth victim could not be identified.

According to a senate committee report, the Shining Path terrorists have killed at least 360 people so far this year.

The committee estimates that approximately 18,000 people, including civilians and security force members, have died since 1980 and that damage amounts to $16 million, which is the equivalent of 70 percent of the Peruvian foreign debt.

Uruguay

Colorado Party Rejects Coalition Government

PY0702204690 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 1 Feb 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Colorado Party sources have told EL DIA that their party will not have political representatives in President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle's cabinet. They added that the party will help make the country more governable by cooperating in the negotiation of law "packages" submitted by the government, thus speeding their passage through Congress.

The president-elect's wish to create a "European-style" coalition government with the Colorado Party, through the appointment of their representatives to ministerial positions, could not be fulfilled, according to a review conducted by the principal Colorado Party leaders. However, the possibility of appointing non-National Party politicians to ministerial positions, without their having to represent any political party, has not been discarded. [passage omitted]